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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19656

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997 • SIVAN 19, 5757 • 18 SAFAR 1418

NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

Dollar soars 1.37% to NIS 3.484
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World of Sport



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A Public Works Department employee yesterday removes a banner that makes an explosive pun on Communications Minister Limor Livnat's name on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

A-G asks police to investigate anti-Livnat signs

By LIAT COLLINS and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has asked police investigation branch head Cmdr. Sando Mazor to investigate who is responsible for banners placed along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway praising Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and denouncing Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who last week resigned as the liaison between the cabinet and the Knesset.

The signs read: "Netanyahu is the way" and "Livnat is explosive" [a play on her name in Hebrew, which could mean "brick," as in a brick of explosives].

Rubinstein ordered the investigation after receiving complaints from various sources. One of the first calls for an inquiry came from Labor MK Yona Yahav, who rushed to the communication minister's defense, saying the slogan against Livnat was reminiscent of the things said about Yitzhak Rabin before his assassination. Yahav, a lawyer by training, said the slogan falls in the category of incitement.

"We have to get rid of this phenomenon at the outset," Yahav said. "I don't feel I can sit quietly and do nothing."

MK Nissim Zivili (Labor) accused the Prime Minister's Office of being behind the campaign.

The prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said Netanyahu had denounced the placards and he has complete respect for Livnat. Bazak could not say who was behind the campaign, but said it caused the premier more harm than good. He said he assumed the people responsible were also behind similar campaigns which had denounced Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Bazak added that there were threats on the prime minister's life from both sides of the political spectrum. "The prime minister too is subject to dangerous incitement from both Left and Right and the media is protecting the inciters," he said.

Meretz sent its own activists to take down the posters against Livnat, declaring its objection to any kind of incitement.

However, Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid stated in response that no threat to the prime minister existed from the Left of the political map. Sarid said that as a member of the Knesset's subcommittee for secret services, he has access to all the existing information and could say with full responsibility that while "there may be certain threats on the prime minister's life, there is no threat from the Left of the political map." He advised Bazak to "stop talking baloney."

Helen Kaye adds: Commenting on the posters, Livnat, who yesterday presented the recommendations of the Peled Commission on reform of the broadcast system, joked, "I don't want to comment on the posters. I decided on a communications explosion instead."

PM secures confidence vote

By LIAT COLLINS, JAY BUSHINSKY, and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A last-minute deal with a price tag of NIS 225 million assured Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Yisrael Ba'aliya's support in today's no-confidence vote, making it virtually impossible for the government to be defeated.

The agreement calls for immediate implementation of all the commitments made to the party last year when the government was formed, including subsidies and job placements for immigrant scientists, housing solutions, and cultural integration programs.

The terms were worked out in marathon negotiations between Avi Maoz, a senior adviser to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, on behalf of the Yisrael Ba'aliya Party, and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman and MK Michael Eitan on behalf of Netanyahu.

The housing agreement's cost is estimated at NIS 200 million. It was drawn up by former finance minister Dan Meridor and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush when the cabinet was formed, but was never implemented.

Resurrection of the immigrant-scientists program, known by the Hebrew acronym "Kamea," was pegged at NIS 6 million and the cultural integration programs, including broadcasts on Channel 33, in Russian and Amharic, are to cost NIS 16 million.

It was also agreed that rabbinical courts would be set up in the CIS.

All the commitments had apparently been accounted for in the 1997 budget. The terms were signed by MK Roman Bronfman and Eitan, in his capacity as coalition chairman.

They also specify that the current ambassador to Russia, Aliza Shenhar, will remain at her post for at least three more months, and will not be immediately replaced by the Foreign Ministry's Herzl Inbar, whose candidacy was vehemently opposed by Yisrael Ba'aliya.

The agreement was submitted to the Knesset last night. Since by law, coalition agreements must be presented at least 24 hours before a no-confidence motion, today's no-confidence vote may be postponed from the afternoon to the evening.

"I'm happy we've reached an agreement," Sharansky said last night. "I hope we've not only signed an agreement, but sealed off a difficult period in this government's history. Instead of dealing with putting out fires, we can finally reach a situation in which we can fulfill all the basic principles of this government."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak told his faction in the Knesset yesterday that the opposition does not have a real chance of toppling the government in today's no-confidence vote, but that such motions whittle away the government's standing.

"Not only in the Knesset, but in the streets of Israel I have found more and more people who say how ashamed they are [of having supported Netanyahu] and how scared they are of the prospects that Netanyahu is leading towards," said Eitan.

The no-confidence motions, filed by Labor and jointly by Meretz, Hadash, and the Democratic Arab Party on the government's economic and diplomatic policies, need a 61 MK majority to pass.

Barak said the party is trying to talk with coalition MKs to persuade them to vote according to conscience.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen met separately with Meir Sheerit and David Re'em (Likud), Bronfman, Emanuel Zissman (Third Way), and Michael Kleiner (Gesher). Each meeting lasted about 30 minutes. Cohen is expected to hold more meetings today before the vote. None of the MKs he spoke to promised to support the no-confidence motions, however.

Zissman noted that the Third Way had decided to support the prime minister and will go on today to tie up all the loose ends. Netanyahu was to meet National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon late last night, to advise him on his new cabinet position, presumably that of finance minister.

A new front opened against Netanyahu yesterday as the Gesher and Tsomet factions within the Likud explored the possibility of quitting the Likud and setting up a separate Knesset faction. Gesher MK Maxim Levy and Tsomet's MK Eliezer Zandberg met to discuss the issue.

Gesher is to decide only at the last moment how to vote on the no-confidence motions, but is expected to abstain or to be absent during the vote.

Gesher leader Foreign Minister David Levy said he was facing "a difficult personal decision." Speaking at Gesher's closed meeting yesterday, Levy said that in addition to deciding how to vote in the Knesset, he had to decide on [the move which would determine] his status, position, and the future of the cabinet.

Levy was referring to pressures from Gesher's senior MKs David Magen and Maxim Levy not to support the government and even, as Magen is demanding, to act to advance the elections.

Levy expressed profound disappointment with Netanyahu's government and with his work with Netanyahu.

"I can't express my position out loud, I always have to whisper it to Bibi, and the public doesn't know of it at all," he said. "I have to answer questions in the street, like, 'Where has David Levy disappeared to?' and it's not easy. In the present situation, I am Bibi's protector. All the way I was loyal to him, even more than I was to Begin."

Likud MK Shaul Amior, who was promised five times by Netanyahu to be appointed minister or to another senior post, finally succeeded in meeting the prime minister yesterday. He said afterwards that the meeting was hard, but that the prime minister told him nothing had been decided yet concerning the cabinet reshuffle and not to believe anything he read in the newspapers.

Religious parties demand Ne'emans return, Page 3

minister in the vote and he is committed to toe the party line. He added, though, that he would consider cooperation with the opposition in the future.

Cohen said that, although he knows the opposition does not have the necessary majority to bring down the government, it is necessary to "show that there is a strong alternative to the present government."

The opposition does hope to further dent the government's image by getting a large number of votes for the motions, and perhaps to even garner more votes than the coalition can muster in the prime minister's defense.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, expressed confidence that, despite all the pressures and demands from coalition partners, his government is sound.

"There is a government. It will remain in office. The coalition is sound. There are problems. [We're] solving them," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu intends to present his new cabinet to the Knesset as planned today, after the no-confidence vote.

Intensive meetings continued last

Arafat improves relations with Iran

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority, which only last year attacked Teheran for supporting terrorism and trying to overthrow PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, has significantly improved relations with Iran, intelligence sources said yesterday.

The sources said the change in PA attitude toward Iran began in March, before the May election of Mohammed Khatami as the new president of the Islamic republic. They traced the new PA policy back to a March 23 meeting between Arafat and outgoing President Hashemi Rafsanjani at the conclusion of the Islamic Conference in Islamabad.

The intelligence sources said that was the first meeting between a high-level Palestinian official and an Iranian counterpart since the advent of the PA in 1994. In 1995 and 1996, Arafat himself attacked the Teheran leadership as being responsible for Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorism against Israel in an Iranian attempt to torpedo the peace process.

The sources said PA efforts to improve relations with Iran have intensified since the election of Khatami, regarded as a reformer who commands widespread support among the young and the radical Islamic wing.

So far, Iranian influence in Palestinian society has been limited. Its sole basis of support has been through Iranian sponsorship of Islamic Jihad, which, unlike Hamas, is regarded as a terrorist organization that does no political outreach to Palestinians.

Over the past few months, several more PA officials have visited Iran. They include Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, and a senior adviser to Arafat.

The sources said the PA rapprochement with Iran comes as Arafat is also quietly stepping up contacts with Iraq. This includes a recent meeting between Arafat and Iraq's ambassador to Jordan.

At this point, the sources said, Arafat's motives for renewing ties with Iran are unclear. They said the PA leader could be attempting to increase his options, given the stalemate with Israel over the extent of withdrawal in the territories and the construction on Jerusalem's Har Homa.

The sources said Arafat's moves toward Teheran might aim to increase pressure on Israel as well as soften Iran's opposition to the PA. They said a PA rapprochement with Iran could also be aimed at improving Arafat's relationship with Hamas. The sources said Arafat has been focusing on both the secular and Islamic opposition in an attempt to widen support for his policies.

Ben-Elissar: Israel wants US aid to PA conditioned on action against terrorism

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Israel would like to see American aid to the Palestinians continue, but conditioned on the Palestinian Authority's performance against terrorism, Ambassador to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar said yesterday.

The remarks were the first indication of Israel's intentions regarding the soon-to-expire US laws governing American-Palestinian relations. Ben-Elissar told *The Jerusalem Post* that Israel "is not satisfied, of course" with the PA's lack of security cooperation but, asked what he is recommending to Congress, said: "We tell them we're in favor of support for the Palestinians - not into their private pockets but for the Palestinians [people]. The more jobs, employment, and welfare you can build is better for the region and better for Israel."

"At the same time, the Palestinians must see it's not free, that they have to show they're in favor of peace. ... We certainly support the continuation of aid, but it should be clear to the Palestinians it's not without conditions - that they have to support the peace process, that terrorism is not acceptable. Congress understands this. I don't have to explain it to them."

However, Ben-Elissar would not state whether he would so closely tie aid to compliance that penalties for infractions could be deducted from the aid total, saying that such details are an American legislative decision in which he would not interfere.

The proposal is one of several under consideration on Capitol Hill as Congress considers possible changes to the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPFA) and weighs the benefits of aid against growing dissatisfaction with the PA's performance.

Key congressional officials have awaited Israel's input on the matter, but MEPFA could be put on hold anyway (with only a short-term extension) due to an overloaded Congressional calendar leading up to the summer recess.

Such leading members of Congress as Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms and House International Relations Committee chairman Benjamin Gilman stated last month that they will oppose US aid to the PA as long as it maintains its death penalty edict against land dealers who sell land to Jews.

Sharon meets PM, Frenkel

By DAVID HARRIS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel met in Sharon's office yesterday, amid growing speculation that Sharon will become the new finance minister.

Frenkel, who is also the government's economic adviser, gave Sharon a general overview of the state of the economy.

"They meet from time to time, and this meeting was not unusual," said Sharon's spokesman, Ra'anan Gissin. "He is allowed to meet senior figures in the economy from time to time."

"They do not meet on a weekly basis and this meeting was at Sharon's request," said a central bank spokesman.

Sharon has not been formally asked to become finance minister, according to Gissin. "The truth is that if he were asked to be finance minister he would have serious reservations, because he wants to see through several projects he has started in the National Infrastructure Ministry, including the Ronen Report [on land reform], the supply of water [to Jordan], and the natural gas project," said Gissin.

Sharon also met last night with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Prime Minister's Office said they discussed ministerial appointments, but stressed that nothing had been settled and the two men will meet again today.

Ministry sources: Politics interfering with peace process

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The coalition crisis and pending cabinet reshuffle have virtually paralyzed the Middle East peace process, senior Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday.

Evidence of this could be seen in the fact that two of the foreign go-between seeking resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations - Egypt's Osama el-Baz and the European Union's Miguel Moratinos - have refrained from any substantive contacts for the past several days.

"This has created a very difficult situation," said one of Foreign Minister David Levy's top aides.

The aide detected dismay in the international community as well, saying that the search for regional peace has become a vested interest insofar as the US, the EU, and Russia are concerned.

Assessments by the Prime Minister's Office, however, were much more upbeat. Officials there insisted that the political crises had had no impact whatsoever on the peace process and that it has been business as usual throughout.

"There have been contacts, messages have been exchanged, and various ideas have been considered," an aide said.

Meanwhile, Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai discussed several major joint industrial projects and investments with Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur.

The Jordanian envoy also confirmed Crown Prince Hassan's intention to visit Israel in the late summer. No date, timetable or itinerary have been determined yet.



AROUND THE WORLD

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Riot may lead Rabin to segregate public pool

By Jerusalem Post Staff

NEWS

in brief

Court frees manslaughter suspects on bail

Supreme Court Justice Elyahu Mazza yesterday decided not to extend the remand of manslaughter suspects Walid Abu Ahmed and Mustafa Abu Ahmed by a further three months, since they have already been in custody for a year while on trial. Mazza ruled the two would be released on bail and held under house arrest until the completion of their prosecution for the death of a rival clan member during a blood feud. Mazza also criticized the way the trial is being conducted, saying it is poorly managed and noting that the prosecution has examined only seven of its 19 witnesses during the past year. *Itim*

IDF unveils armored jeep in Lebanon

The IDF has deployed dozens of bulletproof, US-built Humvees in south Lebanon to replace its more vulnerable Sufa jeeps. The Humvees, known as "Hummer" in Hebrew, have been plated with over a ton of Israeli-developed armor to protect them from Hizbullah ambushes. The US armed forces reportedly considered armor-plating the Humvee following their deployment in Somalia, but Israeli defense officials said the armored Hummer, which costs NIS 410,000 and is assembled by the IDF and Nazareth Industries, is the first to be deployed on an active war front. *Arish O'Sullivan*

Samsung opens office here

Samsung, Korea's largest electronic corporation, opened an office last night in Herzliya, a move that officials called the most significant in the rapidly growing economic relations between Israel and Korea. Samsung Electronics, with sales of more than \$19 billion in 1996, is seeking to buy technology from Israeli start-up companies. The company manufactures a wide variety of products, from semiconductors to televisions. Trade between Korea and Israel totalled \$700 million last year, and officials said the figure for 1997 could top \$1 billion. *Steve Rodan*

Kiryat Shmona man killed in traffic accident

A 40-year-old Kiryat Shmona man died yesterday after being hit by a car as he was leaving the town's cemetery, where he had been visiting a relative's grave. An IDF helicopter was dispatched to take him to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, but it was delayed and arrived after he died. Police are investigating the incident. Five people were injured, one of them critically and two of them seriously, in a collision between two cars near Kfar Hanagid, near Rehovot. *Itim*

Construction worker killed in fall

Eliezer Lugassi, 66, from Kiryat Motzkin, was killed when he fell yesterday from the construction site on the bridge in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood. An MDA doctor declared him dead at the scene. Police and Labor and Social Affairs Ministry inspectors are investigating the death. *Itim*

Australia withdraws welcome mat for Arafat

Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer was forced to admit yesterday that the Australian government will not honor his invitation for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to visit Australia. Fischer, who is also trade minister, issued the invitation when he met Arafat in Bethlehem in March. He said he had invited several regional leaders, including Arafat, to visit Australia when he toured nine Middle East countries as part of a trade drive. The opposition Labor Party spokesman on foreign affairs, Laurie Brereton, asked Fischer in Parliament if he had obtained the permission of conservative Prime Minister John Howard before he invited Arafat to Australia. Fischer did not answer that question, but confirmed both that he had invited Arafat to Australia and that the invitation no longer applies. *AP*

IDF: Wounded UNIFIL troops entered marked mine field

By DAVID RUDGE

Military sources yesterday rejected claims that the IDF was responsible for the incident on Saturday in which six UNIFIL soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously, in a mine blast inside the security zone. The explosion in which the soldiers, from the peacekeeping force's Irish battalion, were hurt, occurred in the zone's western

sector along a road running between Beit Yahoun and Barasheet.

UNIFIL said that the IDF had planted mines in the area several months previously and that the UN force had asked that they be removed so the force could use the road to supply a UN position in the area.

The IDF Spokesman said yesterday that its own inquiry into the incident revealed that the road had

been cleared in compliance with UNIFIL's request. The inquiry found that the troops had not kept to the road but had entered a fenced and signed minefield alongside it.

The statement issued by the IDF Spokesman's office said meetings had taken place between senior officers in the Northern Command and officers of the Irish battalion over the incident.

UNIFIL maintained at the time

that the troops had been wounded after discovering more mines along the road, even though they had been told that the track had been cleared. UNIFIL's own inquiry into the incident has not yet been completed.

Meanwhile, the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group convened at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura yesterday to hear complaints from Israel over a string of roadside bomb attacks in the

Jezzine enclave last Wednesday in which four people, including a South Lebanese Army officer, were killed and two other civilians were wounded.

The group, established to supervise the understandings that ended the cross-border fighting last April, also heard a complaint from Lebanon over the shelling of a village south of Sidon on Saturday night. There were no casualties in that incident.



Dr. Peres

Former prime minister Shimon Peres is serenaded by Spanish musicians yesterday, after receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Alcalá near Madrid. *(AP)*

Israeli Arab delegation expected to visit Syria next month

By DAVID RUDGE

A delegation of Israeli Arab politicians is hoping to visit Syria in the middle of next month and meet with senior officials there, including President Hafez Assad.

The prospects of such a visit going ahead were given a boost yesterday with the announcement that Syria has given its approval in principle.

According to reports, however, the Syrians made it clear that this should not be seen as a step towards normalization of ties with Israel, but as recognition of the struggle of Israeli Arabs for their rights.

The delegation is slated to include Arab MKs from Hadash and other parties and leading public figures.

Hadash secretary-general Mohammed Baraki said they hoped the visit would occur during the second week of July. He said they would begin dealing with the

composition of the delegation immediately after the convention of the Israeli Communist Party, the key component of Hadash. The convention opens tomorrow in Haifa.

"This will be a political delegation that will hold talks with members of the Syrian government and meet with President Hafez Assad," said Baraki. "The delegation will also express its solidarity with the Syrian stance against the continued Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights, and for a comprehensive peace."

Baraki ruled out the possibility of the delegation being used as a bridge between Israel and Syria, saying that "a bridge is something that has to be built in negotiations between the countries themselves."

Mohammed Darawshe, spokesman for the Democratic Arab Party, which sent a delegation to Syria over three years ago, was skeptical about the proposed

visit going ahead as quickly as envisaged.

"The Syrians, as we understand, are still examining the various groups that they would like to extend an invitation to. We have been invited in the past and we are being consulted about the structure of the proposed delegation, but we don't feel that anything will happen within the next two weeks," said Darawshe.

He revealed that the relations developed between the party and senior Syrian officials at the time had developed and strengthened and that contacts were continuing "within the legal boundaries of the State."

Darawshe also rejected the idea of Israel Arabs being used as mediators between Israel and Syria.

"We don't feel that this government, given its present policies, has any intention of advancing the peace talks. We don't want to waste our time and effort nor our

credit with the Syrians," he added.

Jay Bushinsky adds: Government officials evinced little if any enthusiasm about the projected visit to Syria. They do not regard as the kind of confidence-building measure that might lead to early resumption of peace talks.

"This group certainly is not qualified or authorized to negotiate in Israel's name," said David Bar-Ilan, director of communications in the Prime Minister's Office.

If Syria would open her territory to normal tourism and a true cross-section of Israel's population was able to travel to Damascus and other Syrian cities the effect on the peace process would be much more salutary, he said.

Foreign Ministry aides also were unimpressed by the implications of the trip, saying it could cause political or diplomatic harm if the delegation or its members are used to spread anti-Israel propaganda.

Settlers' council: Morag will be test case

By MARGOT DUBKEVITCH

Leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza and members of the Knesset lobby the Land of Israel Front agreed to take action if Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai does not live up to his promise to dismantle the Palestinian tents erected outside the fence at Morag, yesterday afternoon at an emergency meeting on the recent riots in Hebron and Morag.

According to council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar, Mordechai promised to remove the Palestinian tents when he toured Gush Katif on Sunday. Tayar said the council already has started sending representatives to Morag and council leaders are planning to visit there on Friday, together with members of the Land of Israel Front, and gather opposite the Palestinian tents.

"Morag will be our test case," she said.

Gush Katif spokesman Shlomo Kostiner refused to give any details of Friday's plans. Kostiner added he was unaware of any guarantees made by Mordechai to dismantle the Palestinian tents.

The IDF Spokesman said that Palestinians threw stones at a vehicle driving near the Morag hothouses last night. The passengers in the vehicle got out and fired warning shots in the air to disperse the stone throwers and continued driving along the road. The spokesman said they then proceeded to uproot a Palestinian flag and dismantle one of the protest tents. Police and border police removed the settlers from the scene and prevented the incident from escalating.

Also last night a firebomb was thrown at the perimeter fence surrounding Ganei Tal in the Gaza Strip. The IDF Spokesman confirmed the incident, adding that the firebomb ignited but there were no damages or injuries reported.

Kostiner said that on Sunday afternoon the fence Morag settlers had repaired recently had once again been torn down by Palestinians, who also stoned the hothouses. IDF troops dispersed the Palestinians by firing rubber bullets and tear gas. Palestinian sources claim a youth was injured.

Meanwhile, the IDF Spokesman yesterday denied Palestinian claims that an agreement has been reached to remove the monument erected two weeks ago in memory of IDF soldier Sgt. Yossi Levy, who was killed in rioting last September after the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit.

Conference opens today on Nazi loot

By MARYLIN HENRY

Politicians, lawyers, authors and academic experts from Europe, Israel, the US and Latin America are to convene in Geneva today for a conference on Nazi loot, including gold, art and property.

Naphtali Lavie of the World Jewish Restitution Organization and MK Avraham Herschson are scheduled to address the conference, which was organized by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Enmys

Davis, secretary-general of the Tripartite Gold Commission, is also expected to address the gathering.

The commission was responsible for post-war restitution to the central banks of Europe whose vaults were plundered by the Nazis. It now has some \$68 million in so-called "residual gold" — the leftovers since the restitution to the European banks — and the US, France and Britain are considering making that available to Holocaust survivors.

We deeply mourn the passing of **PHILIP OZINSKY** and extend our profound sympathy to **Becky, Roni, Amos, and the children.**
Harold, Shirley, Pippa, and Jonnie Kowarsky

Ballistic missile conference opens in Eilat

By STEVE RODAN

Under tight security, about 600 representatives of 21 countries, as well as industry executives, gathered yesterday at an Eilat hotel to launch a four-day conference on ballistic missile defense sponsored by the US Defense Department. US officials said the conference was closed to the media and pub-

lic and that the hotel is off-limits to anyone but participants. Among the participating countries are NATO nations, Israel, Australia, Finland, Japan, South Korea, and several Eastern European nations.

"The theme of the conference is the last decade of promise and achievement," Richard Scorza, US Embassy spokesman said. "The discussions are on very tech-

nological and research and development issues."

The US is being represented by former undersecretary of defense Paul Kaminski, who until earlier this year was responsible for acquisitions for the Pentagon. Other representatives include officials at the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

Saudis release money for Arab housing in Jerusalem

Saudi Arabia will give the Palestinians \$19 million to build 600 homes in Jerusalem and strengthen their hold over parts of the city, a senior PLO official said yesterday.

Construction will begin within six weeks, and Palestinians planning to build homes can apply for loans to be paid for with the Saudi money, said Faisal Hussein, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem.

The \$19m. are part of a total \$50m. which Saudi Arabia earmarked for Palestinian housing and infrastructure projects in eastern Jerusalem and deposited two years ago in the Islamic

Development Bank. The Saudis stipulated at the time that the money could only be withdrawn for large-scale housing projects.

Palestinian officials have said Israel was not issuing permits for large-scale Palestinian housing projects, and last week, Saudi Arabia decided to make some of the money available to individual homeowners, Hussein told a news conference in Gaza.

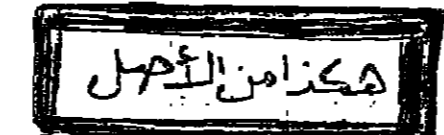
Hussein said the United Arab Emirates has pledged \$600m. for 15,000 Arab housing units, but that most of the money remains in the banks because Israel has not given Palestinians building permits. *(AP)*

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear **PHILIP OZINSKY**
The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, June 24, 1997, at Hayarkon Cemetery (Hotzei Shomron Road). Meeting at the entrance gate.
Shiva at Rehov Lachover 3, Ramat Aviv.
The family:
Wife: **Becky Ozinsky**
Daughter: **Roni and Amos Bentzor**
Sister and brothers: **Naomi Loon (London), Meir and Batya Ozinsky,**
and all his brothers in South Africa
Grandchildren: **Assa and Yotam**

The Directors and Staff of JIA Israel incorporating The British Olim Society extend sincere condolences to their colleague **JILL FISCHER** on the death of her dear **MOTHER מרת מוֹטֵר** and wish all the family Long Life

נפלה עמרת ראשונה
We wish to announce the untimely death of our beloved brother, brother-in-law and uncle **HOWARD GOLDBERGER** (Herschel ben Bryna)
The shiva will be in Minnesota.
Esther and Yehuda Ben-Yaacov

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Likud loyalists to polls

By HERB KEINON

Thousands of Likud activists went to polling stations yesterday to vote for representatives to their local party branches, and to the party's central committee, showing that - despite the dark clouds hovering over the Likud - they still have faith in their party.

True, Likud princes Dan Meridor and Ze'ev Begin may have left the government; former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir may not have wanted to share a podium with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu; and four or five Likud/Gesher MKs may abstain in today's vote of no-confidence. But for the faithful, and only the truly faithful voted in yesterday's elections, the party can still turn things around.

"We have only been in power for a year, things will work out," said Vladimir Shikar, canvassing voters outside the Jerusalem polling place at the International Convention Center. "I understand Netanyahu, I also understand [vet Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman]. Maybe this is because I'm Russian, and I understand the mind-set. We will see the fruits of his labors in a few years' time. Just look how he reconstructed the party."

The scene at the Jerusalem voting station was oddly anachronistic. As a Likud fight song singing of Eretz Yisrael on both sides of the Jordan River blared from the speakers, the activists were casting ballots for members to the central committee. Not only has the Likud long given up the idea of settling both sides of the Jordan, but - by its system of primaries - the party also has taken the bite out of its own central committee.

Nevertheless, the activists were going through the motions. "The central committee is the body that voted to initiate the primaries," said David Amar, seeking a seat on this body. "It is also the body that can do away with the system."

In addition to electing representatives to the party's central committee, the activists were also voting for representatives for their local branches. The local branches will be the ones picking the Likud's candidates in the upcoming municipal elections.

At a time when it is difficult for Netanyahu to hear a public word of support even from his own cabinet ministers, he could be encouraged by what at least



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu casts his ballot yesterday in Jerusalem, during the internal Likud Party election for convention delegates and members of branch councils. He told reporters afterwards he is confident his government will remain in office. (Brian Hendler)

some of the hard-core party members were saying about him at the Jerusalem polling place.

"He is outstanding," enthused Louis Lipsky, running for both the central committee and the local branch. "He is the right person at the right time. What has characterized his administration is the calculated way he makes decisions."

Lipsky, referring to the Meridor resignation, said, "People don't grasp the idea that it was Bibi who was elected, not the Likud. Meridor made a political mistake. No one has quit and

come back, not Ben-Gurion and not Haim Ramon."

Yaela Cohen, also running for the central committee and the Jerusalem local branch, echoed this sentiment, saying that she is satisfied with the prime minister's performance.

"There are no terror attacks, and the whole Palestinian issue has been pushed to the side," Cohen said. "I'm happy that the radio is talking only about Meridor and [Ariel] Sharon, and not terror. The Bar-On Affair didn't really interest anyone. Bibi is a winner, he has luck on

his side. Nothing can change that."

Likud activist and deputy Jerusalem mayor Yigal Amedi, disputing claims that the party was disintegrating, said "not only does the party still exist, but it is in power. It is true that the party's situation is not sterling, but we have three years to fix it."

"That the party has 'three years to fix it' is an assumption taken for granted among most of the party loyalists casting their ballots yesterday. It is an assumption that will be seriously tested in the Knesset today.

Matza to remain health minister

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza has withdrawn his request to move to what would likely have been more pleasant chores in the Tourism Ministry.

This decision, the result of what ministry officials called "atomic pressure" on Matza not to cause the entrance of a sixth minister in five years, will force Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to find another job for MK Silvan Shalom, who was reportedly promised the Health Ministry in the expected reshuffling of portfolios.

Only two days ago, Matza told Netanyahu that he was coming up against a brick wall in trying to deal with health issues, due to massive deficits in the health system and the continued refusal of the Treasury to cover them in line with the National Health Insurance Law. He regularly got

into arguments with Treasury officials, and denounced them as responsible for the impending collapse of the health system.

Matza had originally wanted the Tourism portfolio when the government was established last year, but ended up with no portfolio at all. He then agreed to take Health in November, when Tzahi Hanegbi abandoned the portfolio to become justice minister upon the resignation of Ya'acov Ne'eman. Upon taking the job as health minister, Matza declared: "Not only will I be health minister until the end of this government's term, but I will also be so during the four years after that."

The resignation of Dan Meridor from the Finance Ministry opened another opportunity to get the Tourism post, as Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav is expected to be shifted. Though there has been a down-

turn in tourism, Matza asked for the portfolio.

But yesterday, Matza wrote to Netanyahu and said he had changed his mind.

"I thought, and I still do, that I could make the Tourism portfolio a big success, especially in dealing with the 50th anniversary of Independence and towards the year 2000," he wrote. "But since my plans for leaving the Health Ministry were published, the impression was created that I'm looking to get out of this system and move to a much easier one. As you know well, I am not a man to run from battles or responsibility."

Matza noted that hospital directors, ministry officials, and health fund officials pressed him not to leave, as every health minister takes months to learn the workings of the ministry, leaving the system in limbo in the interim.

Religious parties demand Ne'eman's return

By LIAT COLLINS and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Each of the three religious parties in the Knesset held meetings yesterday to decide how to pursue their demand that Ya'acov Ne'eman be brought back into the government as justice minister but each reached different conclusions.

Shas took the most extreme approach, saying that if Ne'eman is not reinstated, its members would not support the new government appointments when they are presented to the Knesset.

United Torah Judaism also demanded that Ne'eman be returned but said this is not an ultimatum.

The National Religious Party took a line somewhere in between. NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat, reading from the faction's decisions after the meeting, said: "The NRP will vote its confidence in the prime minister in the motions [today] out of a desire to strengthen the government. The faction is united in its belief that Ne'eman must be brought back as justice minister. That was decided unanimously." He said the faction



Ya'acov Ne'eman (Isaac Harari)

that Ne'eman will be asked to make an official statement clarifying his decision not to return to the cabinet, shortly before Netanyahu presents the new cabinet appointments to the Knesset. It is also possible that Netanyahu himself will announce that Ne'eman is not interested in rejoining the cabinet, the sources said.

By yesterday it was clear, even to the religious parties, that Ne'eman had apparently declined Netanyahu's offer to rejoin the cabinet, but the prime minister was not saying anything about it.

According to yesterday's *Yediot Aharonot*, Ne'eman and Netanyahu have agreed to remain vague about Ne'eman's refusal to be minister, to prevent extortion attempts from the coalition parties until Netanyahu finishes the cabinet reshuffle.

But MK Hanan Porat, of the National Religious Party, said on Sunday that he understood from Ne'eman that he had not declined the prime minister's offer because nothing had been offered, and pointed out that if he were offered the justice portfolio he would be pleased to accept it.

will meet this afternoon with the prime minister and would then decide how to vote on the appointments. "We have reason to believe our demand will not fall on deaf ears," Porat said.

But the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement saying that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had asked Ne'eman to rejoin the cabinet, and it was the latter who must now give his answer.

Likud sources said yesterday

MKs: Ariel Sharon will cause serious damage

By DAVID HARRIS

Coalition and opposition MKs say they fear for the economy if National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is handed the Treasury portfolio.

"In no way is Sharon fit to be finance minister," said Avraham Poraz (Shinui). "On the three occasions he has held economic portfolios he caused great dam-

age." Sharon has previously held the Agriculture, Industry and Trade, and Construction and Housing portfolios.

"Sharon is not a liberal, which is exactly what our economy needs," said Poraz. "The less the state is involved in the economy the better."

As agriculture minister he gave too much support to farmers, in industry he opposed the exposure

of the domestic economy to competition, and in Construction he built houses in the Galilee and Negev that no one wanted, while there was too much demand in the central area, added Poraz.

"The only good thing he has done as national infrastructure minister is that he is fully behind the Ronen Report, which recommends the transfer of property ownership from the state to private citizens," concluded Poraz.

Sharon's appointment would be extremely problematic, according to Ophir Pines (Labor). "The budget and Sharon have proven in the past not to be the best of friends."

Former Finance Minister Avraham Shohat (Labor) said on the basis of Sharon's track record he would not make a successful replacement for Dan Meridor, but expressed hope that he will act appropriately, particularly with regard to fiscal restraint and the wider macroeconomic picture.

Meir Sheerit (Likud), however, did express his full support behind Sharon, saying he has the experience necessary to do a good job.

These and other MKs have been suggesting alternative candidates for the Treasury portfolio. The list includes ex-Treasury director-general Ya'acov Ne'eman, former ministers Moshe Arens and Moshe Nissim, MK Silvan Shalom, a variety of academic economists, leading businessmen Eli Hurvitz and Stef Wertheimer, and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's original choice for the job last year.

By DAVID HARRIS

Ariel Sharon has indicated that, if he is appointed finance minister, he would want to transfer the Israel Lands Administration to the Treasury.

Replying to a question at a political meeting last Thursday, Sharon said it would be a good idea to move the ILA to the Treasury. This was dismissed as "a joke," by his spokesman Ra'anan Gissin.

But it is presumed Sharon is keen to push control of the ILA, as he attempts to push through radical land reforms.

It has also been suggested that, if appointed, Sharon will demand the return of the Government Companies Authority to the Treasury.

The authority was moved into the Prime Minister's Office after Binyamin Netanyahu was elected. The authority is responsible for some 150 state-run companies, each with two government-appointed board members. The authority is currently working on the privatization of a number of state assets.

With Sharon's anticipated departure from the National Infrastructure Ministry, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy is likely to press for the return of key transport-related bodies to his ministry's control.

Sharon demanding to take ILA to Treasury



Ariel Sharon

The National Infrastructure Ministry, which was created especially for Sharon, absorbed the Energy Ministry, and also took responsibility for intercity roads and railways, the Public Works Department, and water issues.

"So far Levy has not made any demands,"

said his adviser, Yitzhak Rath. "But it would be logical for the Transport Ministry to run transport-related issues."

Currently, Sharon is responsible for the administrative side of the railways, with the Transport Ministry taking care of the operational elements. "This has led to a freeze in rail developments," said Rath.

Levy is also likely to push for the Trans-Israel Highway to be placed in his ministry's control. "There are more important things that need to be settled first," said Rath.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, meanwhile, has made it clear he wants the Water Commission back in his domain. But Sharon has been working closely with Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir and his team. Under his auspices, the commission has successfully taken forward the water agreement with Jordan, the second phase of which is to be implemented over the next three years.

Eitan, though, is concerned with the Treasury's continued efforts to increase water prices to farmers. His own director-general, Danny Krichman, is refusing to deal with the Treasury until it backs down from its price increase demands.

Controlling the Water Commission would also give Eitan responsibility for long-term water planning.

NEWSLINE

With Yoash Tsiddon, a former Tsomet MK and one of four authors of the Direct Elections Law.

By HERB KEINON

Under the Law for Direct Elections of the Prime Minister, 61 MKs must vote no-confidence to bring down the government, and then both the prime minister and the MKs must stand for reelection. Do you still think this is a good system?

It is a superb tool that is proving itself every day. If we were under the previous system, the last election results would not have permitted a government to exist. Had the previous system still been intact, Labor would have been given the nod to form a government, since they won the most Knesset seats. I believe that, under the pressures of the circumstances, that government would not have lasted a month.

The system is a good tool, but it is not meant as a replacement for leadership. It provides more stability, since the government can't be brought down every Sunday and Thursday. It is a tool that can be likened to a Ferrari. If you put a poor driver in a Ferrari, he will be accident prone.

What I wanted, first and foremost, was to create a situation where the head of the government has the authority. If he has the authority, he creates stability, even when the weath-

er gets rough. And with stability you have better government. If you can run a government under the present circumstances - so called "peace negotiations," high expectations of both Jews and Arabs, large inflation, a party that disintegrated and had to be put back together again, and a host of other troubles - then it shows the system is good.

Critics say there may now be too much stability, that it is too difficult to bring down a government. Is there any validity to this?

Absolutely not. The government should fall on issues over which the MKs are also willing to lose their seats. I left Tsomet because I didn't agree with the policy. If you want to bring down the government, you should also be willing to bear the risks.

Is there any chance of the government falling today?

Of course not. There are not going to be 61 MKs who want to face new elections. Gesher wants one more minister, the NRP wants (Ya'acov) Ne'eman back in office, Yisrael Ba'aliya wants more money, but they are not going to want to go back to elections over these issues. And these issues should not be the reasons for bringing down a government.

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SEFER

Head of Druse delegation relays message from Arafat to PM

Kleiner refuses to be questioned in Ben-Ari case

By DAVID RUDGE

Assad Assad, who headed a delegation of Druse which met with Yasser Arafat in Ramallah yesterday, said he had conveyed a message to the PA chairman from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Assad, an adviser to Netanyahu on Druse affairs and other matters, was due to meet the prime minister last night to relay Arafat's response. The former MK said Arafat also had given him a message which he would convey to Netanyahu, although he declined to reveal any details.

The delegation of Druse local council heads, academics, and



Assad Assad (TPPA)

businessmen, met for over an hour with Arafat and senior PA officials. Assad also had a pri-

vate meeting with Arafat, during which he relayed Netanyahu's message.

"The [Druse] delegation represented all shades of the political spectrum. We may have some political differences, but we are all united on one thing - to strengthen the peace process in general and between Israel and the Palestinians in particular," said Assad.

"Arafat also saw this as an important delegation, as evidenced by the long amount of time he gave for the meeting.

"I had a personal conversation with him during which I conveyed a message from the prime minister and he gave a message for the prime minister, which I

can't give any details about.

"I can say that in general we spoke about the peace process. I personally said that Arafat, having taken a courageous decision, had to continue with the peace process and that there was no reason on earth for there to be any disconnection between him and the prime minister.

"Mediation is important, but the very best mediation is to meet and speak directly face-to-face and this could solve the problems that are being talked about."

Assad said that delegations could discuss issues, but problems were best solved in negotiations between the leaders themselves.

He was asked whether after his meeting with the PA chairman, he was more optimistic about the prospects of a mini-summit or a direct meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat.

"This depends on decisions of both sides. There are also outside factors, such as the US and Egypt, which are working on this. I hope the final outcome will be a meeting [between Netanyahu and Arafat]," Assad replied.

"I certainly have a better feeling after this meeting and I believe that both the prime minister and the Palestinians want to get out of the present deadlock and continue the peace process," he added.

By RAINE MARCUS

Gesher MK Michael Kleiner said yesterday he is not prepared to give evidence voluntarily in the Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly known as Gregory Lerner) case.

Kleiner said other MKs who have been asked by police to give statements had direct contact with Ben-Ari regarding donations to party-affiliated non-profit associations.

However, said Kleiner, he had no contact with Ben-Ari and therefore would refuse to give evidence.

Under normal circumstances, people who refuse to give evidence when summoned may be

questioned under caution, namely as suspects.

The same applies to those who lie or conceal details relevant to an investigation.

However, procedures regarding MKs - who must be cleared for questioning by the Knesset Speaker - are not clear, and Kleiner's statements yesterday could set a precedent.

Among those expected to be summoned include MKs Ehud Barak, Haim Ramon, Roman Bronfman, Sofa Landver, and Yuri Stern.

Ministers Natan Shtronsky and Yuli Edelstein also expect to be summoned.

Ministry to set up school trips bureau

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A trips administration will be set up in the Education Ministry, with satellite staffs in each of the ministry's district offices, to assure that school trips adhere to the highest possible levels of safety and security, the ministry announced yesterday.

This was one of the main recommendations of the committee headed by Meir Elran, appointed by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, to apply the findings of the Pressler Commission, which examined the issue of school trips follow-

ing the March 13 massacre of seven schoolgirls at Naharayim.

The ministry is also adopting the other Elran Committee recommendations, which include:

- appointing a central supervisor for school trips;
- set up a "situation room" to deal with problems on trips as they arise;
- increasing supervision of trips, so that ministry supervisors would be present on some 15% of trips.

The ministry will also follow the commission's recommendations for new criteria that trip companies must meet to run school trips.

No Ben-Gal recall in Sharon libel suit

Tel Aviv District Court yesterday denied Ha'aretz's request to recall Avigdor Ben-Gal to the witness stand in National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's libel suit against the paper.

"Avigdor Ben-Gal didn't see fit to reveal to the court that his meeting with Sharon recently, in connection with his evidence, was in the framework of a joint trip in Russia and that he has a private interest in the gas business, which Sharon dealt with effectively with Russia in his role as a minister in the government," Ha'aretz said in its petition.

Sharon is suing the paper for a May 1991 article which claimed he intentionally misled then-prime minister Menachem Begin and the cabinet during Operation Peace for Galilee. On Sunday, Ben-Gal told the court he is convinced that, during the Lebanon war, Sharon acted in coordination with Begin and with the approval of the government.

That same day, Globes printed an article detailing Ben-Gal's business relations with Sharon and Ben-Gal said on TV that five years ago he had revised his evaluation of Sharon's role in the war, Ha'aretz said in its petition. (Itn)



Mothers call for Lebanon withdrawal

A group of mothers of IDF soldiers serving in Lebanon demonstrates in Tel Aviv yesterday, demanding the government withdraw from the security zone. Eleven soldiers have been killed in Lebanon so far this year. (Ilan Osnendyev/Israel Sun)

Protests at demolition of Israeli Arab homes

By DAVID RUDGE

More than 300 people demonstrated outside the Misgav regional council offices in Galilee yesterday to protest the demolition of homes in both unrecognized Arab settlements and those which have been granted official status.

The demonstrators earlier staged a noisy protest outside the offices of the local planning and building commission.

Some tried to enter the offices, but were prevented by police.

The protest, which followed the demolition last Wednesday of a structure in Karmiel, was organized by the Association of Forty group.

This organization was established 10 years ago to fight for the rights of residents of unrecognized Arab settlements.

Association chairman Mohammed Abu Hajah, who took part in the demonstration, accused the government of failing to honor the previous administration's decision to recognize eight of the larger Arab villages.

He stressed that no infrastructure, including basic amenities such as electricity, water, sewerage networks, or access roads, had been established since the decision to recognize the eight settlements.

Instead, homes had been demolished in recognized villages and orders are pending against structures in other settlements, including those with no official status, Hajah charged.

The Interior Ministry said outline plans for the eight villages have not been approved, therefore making any new building in these settlements illegal.

The ministry did not give a reason for the delay in formulating and approving the plans.

Officials of the Misgav local planning and building commission and the regional council met with demonstrators, promising them their complaints would be raised with the Interior Ministry.

AT THE KNESSET

Israelis serving prison terms abroad to complete sentences here

By LIAT COLLINS

From October, Israelis serving prison sentences in various countries will be able to return here and serve the rest of their terms in a local jail.

Under the same regulations, endorsed yesterday by the Knesset Law Committee, foreigners sentenced here can go back to their own countries to serve the remainder of their sentences.

According to the data presented to the committee, some 300

Israelis are imprisoned abroad, of whom 140 have been tried and sentenced.

There are currently 30 foreign citizens serving sentences in Israeli jails.

A special committee comprising members of the Justice and Foreign Affairs Ministries will deal with signing the necessary agreements with other countries to implement the regulations.

Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said the regulations, and the

law they were based on, add another dimension to humanitarian legislation in Israel.

He said Israelis abroad often serve their sentences under difficult conditions whereas here conditions meet the requirements of human dignity.

Yahalom said he sees the regulations as a continuation of the traditional Jewish principle of "redeeming captives."

The regulations will affect only people who were Israeli nationals at the time of the offense and are

serving in countries which sign the necessary agreement.

Thailand, the US, and several European countries are likely to sign the agreement in the near future.

Female journalists paid less than men

A subcommittee of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, which yesterday discussed the difference in earnings in the media, discovered large gaps, mainly in the printed press

and Channel 2, where more women are used on a freelance basis.

MK Anat Maor (Meretz), who chairs the subcommittee, said, "In a situation in which the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry has one inspector to enforce the Equal Opportunities Law, it's not surprising that women are being dreadfully exploited."

MK Yael Dayan (Labor) asked the television heads why there aren't any women hosting talk shows.

Yehiel Limor, from Tel Aviv University's media department, noted that increasing numbers of women have entered the media field since the 1980, and today between 60 percent and 70 percent

of the 2,000 media students are women.


Lieberman: Acre to receive Zone A status

The city of Acre will receive Zone A preferential status from January 1998, Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, told the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday.

Acre Mayor Eli De Castro said the town suffered from difficult socioeconomic conditions and that part of its infrastructure is a remnant of the Ottoman period.

MK David Azoulay (Shas), an Acre resident, said, he had been encouraged to move there by incentives that he hoped would once again be made available.

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Buying more time

Thanks to a last-minute deal with coalition partner Yisrael Ba'aliya - which will cost more than NIS 200 million - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government will survive the no-confidence vote in the Knesset today. The question remains whether a government that is barely surviving can or should survive for long.

One year since its formation, the Netanyahu government seems to have given up on its initial goal of "excellence" and settled for mere survival. In fact, the government seems to be on an "anti-excellence" kick: Tzahi Hanegbi rides high, while Dan Meridor finds himself out of the government.

Today, Hanegbi - whom Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel found had violated ethical norms without reaching the threshold for indictment - will defend the government in the Knesset. Communications Minister Limor Livnat added her name to the growing list of key coalition members frustrated with Netanyahu by resigning her position on Saturday as cabinet liaison to the Knesset.

On Sunday, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir was so furious with Netanyahu that he would not shake his hand and had to be convinced to sit on the same podium at a memorial service for fighters on the Altalena. Shamir has gone so far as to say that he would not vote again for Netanyahu, and is reportedly looking for an alternative candidate to lead the Likud. The dissatisfaction within the coalition at Netanyahu's handling of the government is so great that the opposition seems almost redundant. In addition to Shamir and former ministers Dan Meridor and Ze'ev Begin, half The Third Way's four-MK faction want new elections, and Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'aliya may still have one foot outside the coalition.

The Geshet and Tsomet factions have opened discussions regarding the formation of an alliance that would compete with the Likud. And the religious parties are demanding that former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman be returned to his post following his acquittal.

The most striking thing about this dissatisfaction is that most of it is not directed at the government's policies, but at its dysfunctional governing. The measure of this is that it is not just historic rivals of Netanyahu, such as Begin and Meridor, who are disillusioned, but personal friends and political comrades, such as Sharansky and Livnat.

Rather than address the problems of how the government operates, Netanyahu is acting as if the problem is the composition of his cabinet. It is not.

No government can operate properly if its ministers feel they are constantly being held responsible for decisions that are made haphazardly without a real chance for them to participate in the process. This is not to say that the ideal is for ministers to be all-powerful - but this is not the only alternative to one-man rule.

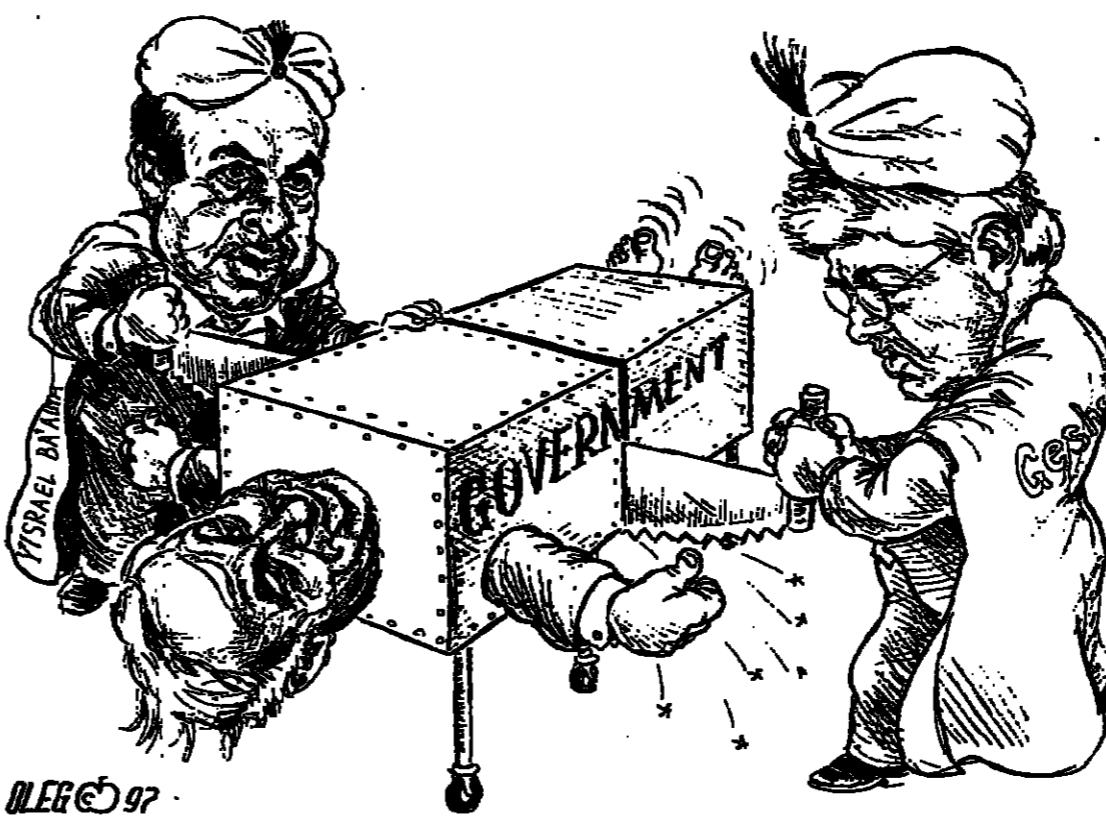
It is a mystery why Netanyahu, with his famed powers of persuasion, seems instead to prefer to rely upon political strong-arm tactics. The possible inclusion of Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon by Netanyahu in his inner circle by elevating him to finance minister is a high-stakes gamble, both on the peace process and the economy. In the best case, Sharon's leadership and government experience could improve the decision-making process and lend right-wing legitimacy to pragmatic decisions. In the economic realm, his "bulldozer" style could help speed up privatization and economic reform.

However, the gamble will fail miserably if, as many observers expect, Sharon plows money into ideologically driven settlement activity, and generally reverts to the statist instincts displayed in his last stint as minister of industry and trade.

In any case, it seems it has taken a year for Netanyahu to conclude that keeping Sharon out of the loop can cause more damage than it averts. Whatever happens, it is clear that the indulgence of the entire political system, with Netanyahu in the lead, in an orgy of political infighting and coalition politics when there is a serious breakdown in the peace process is highly irresponsible.

True, the Israeli political process should not grind to a halt every time Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat decides to be intransigent. But even though Arafat is continuing to make unreasonable demands, the current stalemate demands attention that Netanyahu cannot give while he is putting out political fires of his own making.

By choosing to settle political scores and reshuffle the government now, Netanyahu has indulged in an exercise that is not only a dangerous distraction from the nation's business, but could leave him weaker than ever. If Netanyahu had delivered on the government of excellence that he had promised, he would not have to be going through political hoops to shore up his power now. By driving out ministers with a reputation for integrity and commitment to principle, Netanyahu has dealt his own promise of excellence another blow. To revive that promise, Netanyahu must stop trying to eliminate his opponents, and instead lead in a manner worthy of them, and the rest of Israel's support.



Alive and kicking

Recent years have witnessed vastly exaggerated use of the parliamentary super-weapon known as the no-confidence vote. This might seem strange since, like the one scheduled in the Knesset today, no-confidence votes are usually a huge waste of everybody's time.

If an opposition knows full well that it lacks the votes to bring down the government, why does it bother? Because the no-confidence vote is one way an opposition can prove to itself that it is still alive if not exactly kicking, with elections years away.

And then, in politics as in life, hope springs eternal; and who is to say that a tiny crack here or there will not suddenly break apart into irreparable coalition rupture that might actually cause the government to fall?

Yet the chances of a no-confidence vote achieving its aim are even poorer since direct election of the prime minister changed the rules of the political game. No longer is it enough simply to win a mere majority; an absolute majority of 61 votes is now required to compel the premier to resign and go to new elections. But then the Knesset itself faces the same fate, with the MKs who booted the PM out looking at the risky prospect of premature elections. Which makes the success of the entire enterprise highly unlikely.

Only if a motion of no confidence in the prime minister wins a high-impossible majority of 80 must the premier resign and submit himself alone to new elections, with the incumbent Knesset continuing in office.

So much for the dry letter of the law, and for conventional wisdom. What the new law fails to spell out is the relationship between a

YOSEF GOELL

directly-elected premier and the Knesset, and, of perhaps even greater importance, between the PM and his ministers and coalition partners. Its failure to legislate a new system of restraints on the power of the executive has proved a major failing of the new system.

In attempting to establish himself as an all-powerful "presidential" leader, our first directly-elected premier, while setting up

No-confidence votes aren't likely to bring down the government, but MKs can now show their displeasure with the PM

his coalition, has been emasculating his own Likud.

And all the signs are that the process isn't over: In running for a second term, Benjamin Netanyahu's plans center on forging a close alliance with the hard-party - whose voters put him into office last year - at the expense of his Likud colleagues.

While the ministers, coalition partners and coalition MKs have not yet learned (or dared) to fight back and establish a new balance of power, the disquiet and even threats we have been hearing from Netanyahu's coalition partners in preparation for today's no-confidence vote seem to suggest that some are screwing up their

courage for just that.

IMAGINE a coalition party like Yisrael Ba'aliya, currently in conflict with Netanyahu over his failure to honor coalition commitments, actually voting no confidence today - not to bring down the government, but merely to show Netanyahu that it is ready to cross a red line if he pushes it too far.

Such a move would require some meticulous pre-vote calculations guaranteeing a slight no-confidence majority, but one just short of the 61 that would force new elections.

It could be done - and not only by Natan Sharansky's party, but also by Geshet and Tsomet, or the new internal opposition forming in the Likud around Dan Meridor, Benny Begin, David Re'em and others.

Theoretically, the prime minister can fire the ministers of rebellious coalition factions, but he wouldn't dare do it because he has no viable alternatives to his present coalition.

The impact would be even greater were MKs to break coalition discipline in the plenum and in committees and join the opposition in voting for bills the prime minister opposes.

Some of this has already begun to happen - and the trend should continue concerning the adoption of additional constitutional legislation designed to limit the prime minister's power.

Direct election was intended to give the voters power to choose their prime minister. It wasn't meant to turn that prime minister into a dictator.

The writer comments on public affairs.

Funny yet?

KAREN STABINER

Situation comedy feeds our narcissism. We like to watch ourselves. When the baby boom was in full swing, we tuned in to follow Lucy Ricardo's pregnancy. In the middle of the women's rights movement, Maude decided to have an abortion.

When women started to hear the snooze alarm sound on their biological clocks, Murphy Brown had a baby out of wedlock. Ellen Morgan has just come out of the closet, as did the actress who portrays her.

Edith Bunker once had a biopsy for a lump in her breast, but it turned out to be benign, and she went back to being a lovable ditz. Just what we wanted to hear.

Now comes the news that Murphy Brown may once again hold a mirror up to her audience. TV Guide reports a possible new development in Murphy's life in her 10th and final season. She may have breast cancer.

Is this funny yet? Situation comedy usually lags a blink behind real life, since we find it easier to laugh with a little bit of hindsight; it deals in reflection, not revolution.

But breast cancer research and treatment are in a period of chaos - new research and treatment headlines, annual funding skirmishes, and lots of contradictory messages. Scientists regard the activity with optimism, as the scramble that precedes enlightenment. Patients are not equally pleased by the turmoil. There seems very little to laugh at.

So the producers of *Murphy Brown* face an intriguing challenge: Do they mix it up or play it safe? Candice Bergen has proved she can wring laughs out of anything from drying out to labor pains - the question is not whether she will be funny, but what she will be funny about.

Will Murphy discover her illness at an annual mammogram, or will she find it by accident, a month after a seemingly clean X-ray, the way so many women do? Will she realize that even the best health care money can buy is no guarantee of a cure?

Murphy Brown may have breast cancer. What's she going to laugh about?

Will her managed-care provider (even major corporations have abandoned indemnity insurance) reimburse?

Truth, in this case, is rougher than fiction. They might have to dig into the past for funny stuff - safe-haven jokes about how much that mammogram hurts, or sci-fi barbs about radiation. Wigs are always good for a laugh.

They are in the perfect position to do more. This will be the final season. Renewal is not an issue. The show's writers can address the anger and frustration and fear felt by the 44,000 women in the US who will be diagnosed this year, rather than condescend to them. Many of those women possess a wicked sense of humor about their fate.

In the midst of confusion, a good laugh is a great release. NOT everyone is ready to get that close to the subject. About a month ago, I was confronted in a bookstore by a woman who did not want to buy my book about the war on breast cancer. When she saw it, and me, she held up her fingers in the sign of the cross and backed away.

If Murphy Brown gets breast cancer, you can bet that that woman will dive for the remote control. But I believe her to be in the terrified, dwindling minority. Most women are desperate to leave the last generation's legacy of silence - and shame - behind. They want to talk about it, as long as that talk is honest.

Women have already heard plenty of one-liners when it comes to breast cancer, though most of them elicit only a rueful snicker from survivors who know they are not true: "I'm sure it's going to turn out benign." "There's nothing to worry about, dear." "We got everything. You're cured."

Aristotle observed that writers of comedies must "accommodate themselves to the wish of the spectators." By that definition, much of the history of breast cancer has been a comedy: People being told what they wish to hear, at the expense of progress.

If the makers of *Murphy Brown* can veer toward a theater of confrontation, just a little, they may find an eager, impatient audience.

The writer is the author of *To Dance With the Devil: The New War on Breast Cancer* (Los Angeles Times).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CIVIL-RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Sir, - For many reasons, I hate to take issue with Esther Wachsman ("Saddening state of affairs," June 9) about what she regards as one-sidedness on the part of civil-rights activists. However, because of my respect for her as a brave and honest woman, I cannot let her remarks pass uncontested.

First of all, Israelis living under the aegis of a democratic, elected government, recognized under international law, with a powerful army and a regulated police force, cannot be compared in any way, at any level, with the Palestinians. Like it or not, and regardless of one's political stance, the Palestinians of the West Bank are a people living under occupation, their most basic rights - the right to work, the right of freedom of movement - are granted entirely at the whim of the occupying power, and that power is Israel. Any Palestinian, on any pretext, can, and frequently is, arrested, detained for long periods without

access to legal aid, to family and friends. They simply have no civil rights at all. It is this situation which leads to the involvement of civil-rights activists on their behalf.

The reference to Yitzhar is, forgive me, pure demagoguery. The Yitzhar settlers trespassed on lands not their own and, in this context, were evicted by the appropriate authorities after every avenue of the due legal and administrative process had been exhausted. This was not an abuse of civil rights, but the enforcement of law - a significant difference.

By the same token, the religious residents of Bar-Ilan Street chose to challenge the agreed, legal and binding status quo in the city by demanding the closure of a main traffic thoroughfare on Shabbat. They initiated a series of violent and ugly demonstrations against the right of the secular public to freedom of movement. No religious person was for instance forced to drive on Bar-Ilan Street on Shabbat or

is required to shop in the new shopping center in Ramat Aviv. In other words, there is a difference between the rights of groups and individuals, and aggressive action by one group or individual asserting their desires at the expense of another group or individual.

Mrs. Wachsman states that she is concerned to ensure that the concern for the rights of the individual are observed across the board, for all sectors of the public. And rightly so. It is my belief that she could indeed be an asset to those engaged in the struggle for civil rights. She may want to consider becoming active as a volunteer in one of the relevant organizations, such as the Association for Civil Rights on even B'Tselem. She could in this way contribute to a broadening of the spectrum of issues addressed, and to the securing of a more just and fair society for all.

YEHUDIT KESHET

Jerusalem.

SHAME!

Sir, - Your editorial of June 13, "One Wall, one people," was right on the mark.

Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Haim Miller justifies attacking Jews who are praying at the Wall. For his irresponsible comments, which amount to incitement to future attacks, Mr. Miller should be removed from office immediately.

Mr. Miller says Conservative Jews have nothing to look for at the Wall. The Wall does not belong to Haim Miller. It does not belong to haredim. It belongs to all Jews. The only Jews who should be kept away from the Wall are those who would prevent other Jews from praying there. Let us begin with Mr. Miller, who has proved his expertise in fostering *sinat ahim*.

DON FUTTERMAN

SAD READING

Sir, - The headline on the front page of your issue of June 12 makes very sad reading indeed. That people who profess to be religiously observant and on the festival of Shavuot attack fellow Jews, or for that matter persons of any other religious persuasion who are praying or attempting to pray at the Wall is disgusting, to say the least.

The whole of Israel wants peace with its neighbors, but how can we ever hope to achieve this if there is no peace within our own ranks? The biggest threat to Israel's very existence is not from those who threaten war against the state, but from within our own borders.

JOHN S. COHEN

LEARNING TO DRIVE

Sir, - In Joel Gordin's article of May 21, "Bribe and Drive," he states, "In the US, the UK and Western Europe, anyone can be taught to drive by another licensed driver."

In the state of Ohio, driving instructors are licensed by the Ohio Highway Patrol (State Police). Learners must be at least 16 years old and, through to 18 years of age, they must complete eight hours of driver safety instruction in the classroom. Then they must complete eight hours of actual driving with an instructor. This is a minimum requirement in Ohio.

Anyone over 18 may engage the services of a commercial driving school.

JACK BERGER

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Tel Aviv.

Ra'anana.

مكازم التمثيل

A celluloid tribute to the pioneers

By MATT REES

Movies filmed and set in pre-state Israel were often unashamedly propagandist documents of struggle, pride and overcoming. This week the Hebrew University's Spielberg Jewish Film Archive opens an exhibition about such a film, of which one stirring fragment has survived the ravages of time, fire and an inferior edit by its US financial backers.

Adama ("Earth") was filmed in 1948 at the Ben-Shemen Youth Village, using actors plucked from the young people who lived in the community near Lod.

It told the story of a youthful Holocaust survivor (Benjamin Hildesheim) who overcomes his horrifying memories by coming to Palestine and learning to love the land and the labor it takes to bring the fruit from it. "There is only as much heaven above your head as there is earth beneath your feet," he concludes.

The film was directed by the great German cinematographer Helmar Lerski, a master of light and photography who had been in charge of special effects on Fritz Lang's seminal *Metropolis*.

Adama has had a tortured time since then. Hadassah, the US women's Zionist organization, contributed funding and took distribution rights to the film in the US. Though it was acclaimed in Europe, Hadassah's film chief decided *Adama* was "messed up." Hadassah took Lerski's brilliant footage and marvelous rhythmic editing, chopped it about and turned it into a film called *Tomorrow's a Wonderful Day*. The organization also added an American narrator who told Benjamin's story in the first person and cut out several other characters.

Even so, the film was well-received in the US.

Lerski shot the movie on the highly flammable 35-mm nitrate film then in common use.

Tomorrow's a Wonderful Day was copied onto more durable 16-mm film and can still be seen in its complete form. The original cut of *Adama*, however, was kept at Ben-Shemen, where it spontaneously combusted in 1960 and burned down the cafeteria, too. The final

five minutes of the film had been copied in Tel Aviv and survive today, but even they were damaged in a separate fire.

Admirers of Lerski's 1935 film *Avoda* ("Work"), which supplied the archetypal marching, hammering and sweating images of the pioneers who made the desert bloom and then paved it, had to make do with the Hadassah version of *Adama* for decades. Then, four years ago, the Spielberg Archives' deputy director, Hillel Tryster, tracked down Richard Lewinsohn, a former resident of Ben-Shemen who now lives in Rishon LeZion.

Lewinsohn had been part of the film crew on *Adama* and had saved a wealth of photographs, scripts, posters and music that documented the production. It's Lewinsohn's hoard that is the basis of the Spielberg Archives' exhibition at the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem, from Wednesday through September 30.

"Practically no film is this well-documented and yet the film itself hasn't survived," says Tryster.

"It's sort of a Holy Grail, now."

Visitors to the exhibit will get to see Lewinsohn's photos with a commentary by Tryster, a 12-minute film that includes the final moments of *Adama* and some of the screen tests of youngsters from Ben-Shemen who were candidates for the lead role. There's also wonderful footage of life at the village and of its evacuation in the War of Independence — just after shooting was completed on *Adama*.

The exhibit opens this week with two special events.

The first, tonight in Jerusalem, is a screening of *Avoda* at 8:30 at the Israel Museum's Springer Auditorium. The film is 50 minutes long and entrance costs NIS 26 for the evening, which includes a lecture on Lerski's work by Jan-Christopher Horak, director of the Munich Film Museum.

On Thursday, at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque, there's a screening of *Tomorrow's a Wonderful Day*, with a lecture by Ronny Loewy, who heads the Holocaust film project of the Frankfurt Film Museum.

(For more information on the screenings, call 02-670-8985.)



Holocaust survivor Benjamin Hildesheim (center, sitting) learns to love the land in 'Adama.'

NEWS of the muse

Topol to fiddle again

Haim Topol, aka Tevya from *Fiddler on the Roof*, will be replaying his leading role as the poor Russian Jewish milkman, this time in Hebrew. Thirty-three years after the Tony award-winning Broadway production portraying life in the shtetl, Avraham Desheh's People's Theater is putting on the musical here in January and February of 1998. *Fiddler on the Roof* will be directed by Sammy Beis, who directed the play in England. It will be part of the state's 50th birthday celebrations.

Topol, who starred in the 1971 movie, hosted last week's "Philharmonic in the Park" celebration of 100 years of Zionism; though he sidestepped the violinist's cue to sing a repertoire from the musical, he did deliver his famous opening monologue.

Amy Klein



Haim Topol

Reviving Woody Guthrie

British working-class pop hero Billy Bragg has been approached by the Woody Guthrie archive, to put some of the great American folk singer's songs to music. "Woody Guthrie wrote a lot of songs," he says, "but he only recorded, really, during the Second World War." Guthrie didn't know how to read or write music, says Bragg, "he just wrote lyrics."

"Woody hardly ever played to audiences of bigger than two or three hundred. Very few of the songs that he wrote were ever recorded or taped. So the manuscripts that remain have no tunes with them. I would like to cast some of these songs in the time that they were being written," he adds, referring to the early '50s, when blues, R&B, and early rock 'n' roll were coming into prominence. Bragg believes these elements would have been echoed in Guthrie's music.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Zehavi writes for Keshet Eilon

The Keshet Eilon Masterclasses in Kibbutz Eilon in Western Galilee take place July 25 through August 10. The kibbutz will host young violin players from all over the world who want to hone their craft during their summer vacation. The final gala concert of the masterclasses will take place August 10 at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center. Composer Oded Zehavi has written a new opus especially for the masterclasses which comprises a series of 11 fragments, duets and dialogues for violins. The work is written in a way in which it can be performed by from two to 16 violinists.

Michael Aizenstadt

The magnificent seven

The Israel Fund for Quality Films has approved development funding of \$7,000 each for seven screenplay synopses. To qualify for further funding, the screenplays will have to get final approval from the fund. The films include *Blood, Milk and Honey* by Serge Ankrif, and *Meanwhile* by Noa Efrat.

Helen Kaye

IN TUNE

OK COMPUTER
Radiohead
(NMC)

THE COLOUR AND THE SHAPE
Foo Fighters
(NMC)

THE PLANET SLEEPS
Various artists
(Heliion)

Radiohead, which has gone straight to the top of the local Tower charts (see box below), has the reputation of being the British R.E.M., not so much for any clear musical similarities, but for its dedicated non-following of fashion and its devotion to rock as art.

Backing up Michael Stipe and company on part of its world tour in 1995 (including a stop in Tel Aviv — its second), Radiohead daz-

Video didn't kill the Radiohead

By DAVID BRINN

zled audiences with its shows, and even Stipe exclaimed it was so good, it was scary.

For those who only know the band and its charismatic frontman Thom Yorke via its debut slacker anthem, the distortion-drenched "Creep," the difference is like listening to *Meet the Beales* and *Sgt. Pepper*.

Ostensibly, a loosely-knit concept album (first warning sign!) about drowning in late 20th-century technology, *OK Computer* occasionally almost drowns in its own earnestness, like on the sprawling single "Paranoid Android," a song-suite that echoes ghosts of prog rock dinosaurs (second warning sign!) ELP and Rush.

When it doesn't try so hard, as on almost the whole rest of the record, the results improve drastically. The jazzy "Subterranean Homesick Alien" contains a killer chorus, as does the shimmering "Let Down," a dead ringer for the lush *Automatic for the People* era R.E.M.

For fear of being laughed off the page, what *OK Computer* reminds me of more than anything else are those early '70s Moody Blues concept albums in which you emerged thinking that something deep and intense took place.

Backing up Michael Stipe and company on part of its world tour in 1995 (including a stop in Tel Aviv — its second), Radiohead daz-



Radiohead: Dedicated to rock as art

flawed but noble attempt at a serious statement. There are loads of empty spaces, which the band doesn't feel compelled to fill with rock beats and guitar solos, creating a relaxed, dreamy atmosphere.

On the haunting, closing ballad "The Tourist," the narrator admonishes himself to "slow down, you idiot." Radiohead takes its own advice to exhilarating effect.

THAT'S not to say there's no place for loud, fast and dumb. Foo Fighters' second album proves this proudly, as ex-Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl steps into his own, following 1995's promising debut.

The Colour and the Shape is a band effort, unlike the exclusively Grohl debut, and the interaction makes for a livelier, looser feel.

Grohl's punk-pop orientation is still very much evident, with the first single, the infectious "Monkey Wrench," leading the Ramones-meets-Blue Oyster Cult way.

Tempered with ragged acoustic ballads, Grohl's melodic instincts barrel through the sometimes torrid rhythms and *kerroang* of the guitars.

You won't hear much that reminds you of Grohl's former band, as Grohl has a lighter, more humorous and varied touch than the late Kurt Cobain.

He may not be up to par with his former partner lyrically, but at least there are no odes this time to Ritalin as there was on the debut, although one tune titled "My Poor Brain" almost takes up the slack.

Way too melodic to be heavy metal, too tough to be pop, and too layered to be punk, Foo Fighters takes its own color and shape just fine.

THE COMPILERS of *The Planet Sleeps* intend "to bring bliss into a frantic world." They succeed nicely in the collection of 16 lullabies from 16 countries featuring music and instruments indigenous to each country.

Israel is represented by Jeremy Kaplan and Haya Samir collaborating on the lilting "Noomey."

With tracks ranging from chorale hymns to African chants, the collections is a little too disjointed to be really blissful, but after a few listens to Foo Fighters, it sure is soothing.

All the street's a stage

By HELEN KAYE

On the second day of last year's International Street Theater Festival, the first of its kind here, artistic director Jacky Behar got all his players together for a gripe session.

Whatever they said must have worked, because the new, improved and second International Street Theater Festival hits the street in Bat Yam's industrial area on July 1 and 2.

There are eleven local acts, four of them commissioned by the festival, and three visitors from abroad as well as a juggling space, pavement artists and magic stilt-walkers.

The local acts include *The Tail* from KLIPA, alias Dmitri Tulpanov and Idit Herzman, the wildly talented and original couple who won first prize at this year's Shades of Dance. They've got a whole street to themselves and to get in, you have to lift a curtain.

Then there's Yion Tzafir's *Hama aplim* who've been searching for the promised land so many years that they're covered in cob-

webs, and Abigail Klein's box with about 50 peepholes to look inside and see her act, but be prepared for surprises.

Another off-the-wall, talented group is the Zizland trio who made a huge hit at the Haifa Children's Theater festival and won the street theater first prize there.

The foreign companies are Los Galindos, a comic trapeze act from Spain; Iris, also from Spain, who has a very audience interactive show; and a street circus group from Austria called Irwisch.

The improvements to the festival include big posters announcing what's where when, no overlapping events, no background music — thank goodness because last year it drowned out the theater — and no stages. It's all right on the street.

The budget is NIS 800,000, 60 percent of which comes from the Bat Yam municipality and the rest from corporate sponsors including Nestlé Motta and Tempo.

The festival spreads over Nussbaum and Josephthal streets and runs from 7 p.m. to midnight both evenings.

JSO quenches thirst for Strauss

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

As the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA's season comes to a close, music director David Shallon expresses mixed feelings regarding the future of the orchestra and music in the capital.

After five years in the job — which began with friction between the maestro and the musicians — Shallon, 46, can at last say that "I enjoy each and every rehearsal with the orchestra." And there's no doubt that the JSO under Shallon has improved.

Tomorrow night's final concert is a Richard Strauss evening, showcasing three works never played by the orchestra. "For many years we all thought about Strauss but were not allowed to play his music for various reasons. Now this has all changed and all local orchestras are thirsty for Strauss music." This particular program, Shallon elaborates, "combines two works written 70 years apart.

"The First Horn Concerto is a youthful opus written when Strauss was about 17, and the last four songs were composed in 1949. The time between these two works is more than double the life span of Schubert and Mozart."

The program ends with Strauss's monumental *Alpine Symphony*. "It is a festival of sounds, a description in music of a youthful experience of traveling in the Alps." The piece requires a large number of extra musicians, especially extra horn players. "Actually you need eight horn players on stage and a dozen off stage. We will get close to this number."

Shallon is less happy about the city's lack of interest in the orchestra. He even made a donation to enable the orchestra to purchase new chairs for the musicians on stage.

"But this was sort of an act of despair. I hoped that it might do something to someone in the city but now I doubt it. I have the feeling that everybody around us in the city tries to do anything they can to simply avoid us. It doesn't happen in other cities."

Nevertheless, he is looking forward to the orchestra's coming season, for which he is set to continue his programming policy of not pampering the audience. Shallon gives the audience its share of Beethoven and Brahms but also demands something in return.

Within the subscription concerts, he is adamant about playing 20th-century music in general, and contemporary Israeli music in particular. And next year, he will play a work by Sofia Gubaidolina.

Shallon admits that he is hardly thrilled with some light-classics concerts the orchestra will present next season, like an evening of film music, a program of highlights from West End musicals and a Viennese Ball-style concert.

"But we live in a certain economic reality and I want to see how it will work. I know our lighter program is highly successful among new subscribers, but I also know of some subscribers who moved to the main series because they didn't like what we offered within the lighter classics series. For me, that is somewhat rewarding."



David Shallon

DANCE REVIEW

Tharp the hero

By ORA BRAFMAN

American choreographer Twyla Tharp came here as part of a world tour, with her program, Tharp!, which includes three new works: *Heroes*, *Sweet Fields*, and *66*. Halfway through *Heroes*, company dancers lost their vivaciousness as they lost their footing on the hazardous wet linoleum floor, caused by the humid summer evening.

Tharp, who earlier hesitated to remove the slippery floor,

watched as her dancers slipped and heroically went on with their cautious dancing. She rushed backstage at the first intermission to reverse her decision and treat the wounded.

The young company contains some truly fine dancers, with an emphasis on male dancers, who also got many more chances to express themselves. Tharp is an American asset who gives "entertainment" a good name. High and low art, street-corner and ballet expressions mix and match in her uniquely able and intelligent hands.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Bach's disgusting work

Bach's St. John Passion, conducted by Avner Biron, was the crowning glory of the Israel Camerata's season. The small size of the Belgian Currende Choir contributed to the singing's intensity and lucidity. The appropriately solemn chorales contrasted excitingly with the dramatic, vitriolic choral utterances representing the incited, hate-infused Jewish mob.

As the Evangelist, tenor Joseph Cornwell remained faithful to the traditional narrative style. Hubert Claessens displayed a warm, sonorous, bass-baritone in the role of Jesus, and the richly inflected soprano of Monika Frimmer evoked love throughout.

The orchestra's solo episodes were highlights in their own right. Its ensemble playing was inspired, blending in with the choir in a remarkable artistic achievement that did justice to this demanding, though in many ways revolting, work.

Ury Eppstein

UNDER Yuri Ahronovitch's baton, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA soared through the relatively short dance numbers which came alive on the concert stage (Henry Crown Symphony Hall, June 18). The highlights were the excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Eran Reemny's trumpet was particularly impressive.

It compensated for the earlier rendition of Gershwin's *F Major Piano Concerto* in which Jeffrey Siegel rushed through the music with amazing speed and without any sensitivity to Gershwin's style. It was a very heavy reading devoid of that smile and wink in the eye which characterizes all of Gershwin's compositions.

Michael Aizenstadt

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON		WEEK WEEK CHARTS		ARTIST	TITLE
#1	NEW!	1	RADIOHEAD	OK COMPUTER	SPACE JAM
#2	3	2	OST	NESHKA LADOD	COMING UP
#3	NEW!	1	TIPEX	LIVE	BLOOD ON THE...
#4	4	6	SUEDE	JE TAIME	MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
#5	1	19	YEHUDA POLIKER	EREVE,EREVE	WITHOUT YOU
#6	2	6	MICHAEL JACKSON	COLLECTION	WU-TANG FOREVER
#7	NEW!	1	V/A	MAGIC NIGHTS	FALLING INTO YOU
#8	8	3	HANSON	MAGIC NIGHTS	PARTY TIME 3
#9	13	3	SHALOM HANOCH		
#10	7	6	EYAL GOLAN		
#11	10	43	RAMI KLEINSTEIN		
#12	NEW!	1	WU-TANG CLAN		
#13	20	3	GLYKERIA		
#14	RE	1	CELINE DION		
#15	24	14	V/A		

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

BUSINESS

in brief

Kuwait, Jordan resume commercial flights

Kuwait and Jordan agreed on Sunday in Kuwait City to resume commercial flights in July, almost seven years after they were halted by the 1990 Iraqi occupation of this oil-rich Gulf state.

The resumption was a sign that the two countries are closer to ending a hiatus caused by Jordan's perceived tilt toward Baghdad during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Kuwait News Agency said the announcement was made by a Kuwait Airways Corp. delegation visiting Amman to discuss the matter with their counterparts at Royal Jordanian.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, has led a campaign for reconciliation, saying Kuwait needs to win more friends. **AP**

Jordanian tourism declines 3%

The number of tourists visiting Jordan declined this year because of mounting tension caused by deadlocked Mideast peace talks, officials said yesterday.

"Western tourists regard Jordan as part of a region plagued by tension and instability caused by deadlocked peace talks," said Mazin Qaisi, who works for Prime Tours.

About 396,000 visitors came to Jordan between January and May this year, about 3.2 percent less than the same period in 1996. Tourism Ministry figures indicate. The number of American tourists declined by 7,000 to 42,000 and Europeans by 15,000 to 120,000, but visitors from Gulf Arab states increased by 9,000 to 164,000 and from Israel by 1,000 to 50,000 this year. **AP**

Israel trade office in Taiwan launches Web site

The Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei has just established a new Web site to provide economic, cultural, current events, and tourism information about Israel.

The ISECO site, in English and Chinese, also includes an electronic matching service that enables Taiwanese and Israeli entrepreneurs and businesses to locate each other via the Internet.

Via standardized E-mail submissions, Taiwanese and Israeli businesspeople can inform the ISECO on their fields of business, investment, or entrepreneurial interest.

The ISECO office in Taipei in conjunction with the Israel Export Institute in Tel Aviv will then match compatible companies. The site can be reached at www.tpe.wownet.net/~iseco **Jennifer Friedlin**

Overseas callers are talking longer

People who have joined Bezeq International's special deal giving a 15 percent reduction on overseas calls to two specific numbers are talking 50% longer than before, but the number of calls they are making has increased only moderately.

The company said 40,000 subscribers have joined the Keshet Ham deal in the last six weeks. In addition to the original 14 countries, Russia, Ukraine, Ireland, Holland, Argentina, and South Africa have joined the list.

One may join by calling 188 and paying a NIS 3.90 monthly fee. **Judy Siegel**

Meridor: Budget-cut plan on PM's desk for a month

Netanyahu claims proposal still being studied by Treasury

By DAVID HARRIS

The additional NIS 600 million 1997 budget cut, with all its details, was presented to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a month ago, former finance minister Dan Meridor said yesterday.

Throughout the day yesterday, the Prime Minister's Office failed to deny a report in *Ha'aretz*, according to which Netanyahu said the Treasury was still studying its proposed cuts, and said that the premier is backtracking from his earlier agreement to endorse a supplementary NIS 600m. cut.

Ever since the end of the first quarter, when it became clear the 1997 budget deficit was not within the government-set target of 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product, Meridor had been pushing for an additional budget cut

this year, following that of NIS 7.2 billion approved by the Knesset in December.

Meridor wanted the cut to be made alongside a substantial reduction in the central bank's key lending rate.

There are increasing signals both from the Treasury and Prime Minister's Office that there is no intention of implementing an additional cut this year.

"The reason Netanyahu doesn't want a further cut is quite simple," said former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor).

"Midterm he doesn't want to lose favor with ministers over their budgets, when there are already other problems."

With regard to whether Meridor did present the detailed budget cut

or not, Shohat said, "Personally, I believe Meridor."

With attention turning to the 1998 budget, many in the Treasury feel it is now too late to implement the cut this year. Ministry sources are talking of a cut between NIS 2b. and NIS 4b. in order to bring the deficit down to 2.4% of GDP, in line with the government target.

Both this year and next year's cuts are intended to be made across the board, with the Defense Ministry facing an uphill struggle to receive the same sum next year as this, let alone any increase.

Indeed, negotiations over this year's defense budget are ongoing, having been stalled several times this year.

The Health and Education Ministries have both expressed

their fears about the next rounds of public spending cuts.

The Health Ministry is still involved in a bitter argument with the Treasury over funding for the health funds. The Treasury wants to give greater financial independence to the health funds, but this would mean a reduction or even an end to the government's commitment to fund the difference between health insurance payments and the basket of health services. This gap currently stands at some NIS 2b.

The Finance Ministry also is facing funding demands from the Yisrael Ba'aliyah Party.

The government will discuss the budget in about a month from now and will have to pass the budget law through the Knesset before December 31.

Dollar soars 1.37% to NIS 3.484

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The shekel depreciated sharply yesterday, losing 1.37 percent of its value before settling at another all-time high of 3.484 to the dollar.

Traders have attributed the currency's erratic behavior to the market's nervousness in the face of the coalition crisis which has followed Dan Meridor's resignation last week as finance minister.

Yesterday's trading, which was dominated by an aggregate demand for some \$200 million, completed a 2% depreciation over two consecutive trading days.

Since the beginning of the year the greenback has appreciated by NIS 0.22, or 8%.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel's basket of foreign currencies climbed 2.2% since Thursday, thus creating a distance of 1.8% between the lower extent of the fluctuation band and the so-called diagonal's middle point.

An estimated \$500 million in dollar orders since the announcement of the central bank's 1.2% interest rate cut last Wednesday represents a sharp turnaround in the currency market's behavior, which earlier last week recorded daily supplies of some \$700m.

While the reasons for the market's behavior can only be the subject of speculation — ranging from fear of a new finance minister's fiscally expansive policies to hopes for a newly invigorated, export-friendly economy — the shekel's depreciation for now suits the Bank of Israel's agenda, namely to cease and finance its shekel policy through accelerated dollar purchases.



Compaq acquires Tandem

Eekhard Pfeiffer (left), president and CEO of Compaq Computer Corporation, poses yesterday in New York with Roel Pieper, CEO of Tandem Computers, following their announcement that Compaq has agreed to acquire Tandem as a wholly owned subsidiary in a stock swap worth some \$3 billion. **(Reuters)**

Delors: EU summit a fiasco

PARIS (Reuters) — Former European Commission chief Jacques Delors on Sunday branded the European Union's summit last week a "fiasco" and said he had been "shocked by German arrogance."

He also accused Bonn of "allergy" towards southern European states, such as Spain and Italy, that hope to join a single European currency from 1999.

"It was a fiasco, there's no other word," Delors told Europe 1 radio of the Amsterdam summit in producing a new treaty to update the Maastricht treaty mapping out the path to economic and monetary union (EMU).

Delors, a French Socialist and an architect of Maastricht, said the revised treaty failed partly by avoiding key issues of how to enlarge the bloc to eastern European states. "They ended with a flop, a bad atmosphere," he said.

"The German arrogance at

Amsterdam shocked me," Delors added, saying he felt he could speak out because of long and close ties with Bonn in 10 years as Commission president until 1995. "It deserved a stronger reply from France."

Delors said German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had refused a French demand on EMU that was "completely justified" and that Bonn had demanded unanimity voting on justice and home affairs — an area where Bonn had previously favored majority voting.

Delors said France's request for "a true coordination of economic policies" as a counterbalance to an independent EU central bank after the creation of a single European currency in 1999 was justified by Maastricht.

The summit ended early on Wednesday with accord on a resolution bolstering jobs and growth, favored by France. Paris agreed to a pact championed by Bonn to limit budget deficits

after the launch of a single currency in 1999.

"I think that what happened at Amsterdam shows that the wheels of cooperation between France and Germany are not working well," he said.

Delors also said Bonn was being too strict in interpreting criteria for joining a single currency, especially a demand that countries should limit their budget deficit to three percent of gross domestic product from 1997.

"I suspect them [Germany] of wanting to arrive at 3.00 percent for 1997 in order to satisfy their allergy against southern countries," he said.

Even so, he said he believes the euro would be launched on time. "I think it will happen," he said.

New Socialist French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin has argued for a flexible interpretation of the criteria, that also allow for inclusion of countries that are clearly moving towards the targets.

Delors said financial markets were betting on EMU starting with a broad range of countries but that all would have to qualify. "We will accept a broad euro, but not a weak euro," he said.

Delors also said he felt stung by charges Europe lacks a social dimension or concern for the unemployed. "People who say there is no social Europe are either ignorant or hypocrites," he said.

Israel, Poland to sign trade pact next month

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky will next month visit Poland and sign a free-trade accord, which will take effect on January 1, 1998, Gabriella Cohen, deputy director of the ministry's foreign trade administration, said yesterday.

The accord, initialed earlier this week, is expected to boost trade between the two nations.

"The agreement will make Israel more competitive with the European Union in terms of trade with Poland, because Poland already has such an agreement with the European Union," Cohen said.

The agreement applies to all industrial exports and many agri-

cultural and food exports. It also stipulates that duties on sensitive products be eliminated by January 1999, said Cohen. Textile duties are to be removed a year later.

Israel has similar agreements with two other Eastern European countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and is finalizing a treaty with Slovenia. The ministry is also conducting trade discussions with Hungary.

Israel has free-trade agreements with the US, Canada, Turkey, and the European Union.

Israel had a positive trade balance with Poland in 1996, with exports worth some \$65 million, mostly in agriculture, communications, and high-tech products. Polish imports to Israel totalled \$20m. last year.

Koor postpones US bond issue

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Koor Industries has indefinitely postponed plans to raise \$300 million in a US bond offering, the firm announced yesterday. The holding company originally planned to issue the bonds at the beginning of July.

Koor attributed the decision to recent changes in monetary policy and fears that a bond offering would hurt the company should the shekel continue to depreciate.

Because its balance sheets are recorded in shekels, any depreciation of the shekel would damage the company's ability to pay dollar-based interest rates on the bonds.

The company is currently considering other ways to raise money. "There is uncertainty at this time as to the economic feasibility and the risks associated with an offering of

bonds by Koor in the US, in comparison with the feasibility of obtaining long-term financing in linked new Israeli shekels in Israel," the company said in a statement.

If the shekel were to depreciate and the company had issued the bonds, the company would face an "enormous financial loss," said Tal Liani, an analyst at Zannex Securities in Tel Aviv.

The company is currently looking to raise money to restructure Makhshim and to expand its core businesses, Liani said. Koor estimates that such activities will cost about \$200m. - \$300m.

The company recently announced its interest in acquiring Israel Chemicals Ltd. Koor is currently waiting for the Eisenberg family to settle the will of Shaul Eisenberg, Israel Chemical's late chairman.

Africa Israel plans \$120m. industrial park in Lod

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Africa Israel plans to invest \$120 million in a 170-dunam (43-acre) industrial park in Lod, said Mazal Ben-David, a company spokeswoman.

The park will comprise six buildings housing offices, service centers, and stores. Unlike Africa Israel's industrial park in Rehovot, the Lod park will not be a high-tech center, but will focus on providing office space for other businesses.

"Lod is seen as a place that is going to develop into a business center," said Ben-David. "Things that were never there before, such as hotels and offices, are starting to pop up."

Nearby Ben-Gurion Airport also makes this an attractive location for businesses, she said.

A Holiday Inn Express hotel will be built at the park to service trav-

eling businesspeople. The company owns, controls, and manages Holiday Inn's local operations.

So far, 70 percent of the space in one of the buildings has been rented.

The industrial park reflects Africa Israel's continuing plans to develop its real estate holdings. In November, Lev Leviev bought a major stake in Africa Israel from Bank Leumi.

Since the purchase, Leviev announced the establishment of three new corporate divisions: Africa Israel Real Estate Holdings, Africa Israel International, and Africa Israel Revenue Producing Properties.

Africa Israel previously consisted of three subsidiaries, including: Africa Israel Industry and Trade, Africa Israel Hotels, and Danya Cebus. Africa Israel also has plans to increase its hotel holdings.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.825	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.6.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.7204	3.7805	—	—
German mark	3.4244	3.4787	3.36	3.53
French franc	1.9833	2.0183	1.94	2.06
Japanese yen (100)	5.6789	5.7885	5.57	5.85
Dutch florin	0.6879	0.6974	0.57	0.61
Swiss franc	2.9858	3.0136	2.91	3.08
Swedish krona	1.7816	1.78	1.82	1.7847
Norwegian krona	2.2819	2.4204	2.34	2.46
Denish krona	0.4442	0.4514	0.43	0.48
Finnish mark	0.4729	0.4806	0.46	0.49
Canadian dollar	0.8208	0.8293	0.81	0.84
Australian dollar	0.6836	0.6744	0.65	0.69
S. African rand	2.4598	2.4985	2.41	2.54
Belgian franc (10)	2.0723	2.0788	2.22	2.38
Austrian schilling (10)	0.7607	0.7730	0.66	0.78
Italian lire (1,000)	0.9510	0.9768	0.94	1.00
Egyptian pound	2.8188	2.8643	2.77	2.91
Jordanian dinar	2.0292	2.0510	1.99	2.08
ECU	4.8288	4.9078	4.77	5.08
Irish punt	0.9700	1.0000	0.97	1.06
Spanish peseta (100)	3.8859	3.9486	3.84	4.08
	5.1802	5.2435	5.07	5.32
	2.9488	2.9877	2.90	3.23

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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List category and sub-category.

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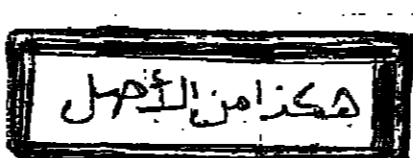
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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various international companies.

ISRAELI SHARES

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies.

ISRAELI SHARES

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies.

TASE ROUNDUP

Stock indexes mixed as dollar strengthens

Mishtanim 296.35 ▼ 0.19%

Maof 304.69 ▲ 0.21%

By FELICE MARANZ

Stock indexes were mixed yesterday amid concern about...

The Maof Index of 25 issues rose 0.21 percent to 304.69...

concern about who might replace Dan Meridor as finance minister.

Of 978 shares trading across the exchange: 541 shares fell, 137 rose, and 300 remained unchanged.

Other banks were mixed, with Bank Leumi, Israel's second biggest bank, falling 0.25 percent.

and Israel Discount Bank closing unchanged. First International Bank of Israel sank 4.5 percent amid "very low volume," said Haker.

"The drop is meaningless." Some \$30,000 worth of First International shares changed hands.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Lists various market indexes.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES

Table with columns: Currency, Last, Change. Lists dollar crossrates.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists US commodities.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists London commodities.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists spot market metals.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists New York metal futures.

PARIS

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists Paris market data.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists Frankfurt market data.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Dow falls 192 points

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average yesterday suffered its worst drop since the crash of 1987 as rising interest rates spurred a crush of profit-taking on the stock market's record-setting advance.

The Dow dropped 192.25 points to close at 7,604.26, the blue-chip barometer's biggest point-drop since it lost 508 points on the Black Monday crash of Oct. 19, 1987 and slightly more than a 190.58-point drop in October 1989.

Both of those drops were far more significant in percentage terms than yesterday's 2.5 percent slide, however, because the Dow has more than tripled in value over the past 10 years. Last week, the Dow broke above 7,800 for the first time, closing at a record-high 7,796.51 on Friday.

Broader measures also slid sharply. The technology-heavy Nasdaq market bucked the trend for much of the session, but turned lower over the last hour.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

British shares continue decline

LONDON (Reuters) - bourse trade lower, hurt by profit taking after the DAX index on Friday surged to a new all-time high on buying tied to the expiry of DAX futures and options and stock options. The DAX-30 index closed at 3,754.72, down 33.55 points, or 0.89%.

In later screen-based trade the IBIS DAX index ended at 3,748.79, down 39.75 points, or 1.05%.

Uncertainty about the course of UK monetary and fiscal policy, a further appreciation in the value of sterling, and a weak start on Wall Street conspired to drive leading British shares lower yesterday for the sixth straight session. The FTSE 100 closed at 4,575.8, down 18.1 points, or 0.39 percent.

FRANKFURT - Shares ended

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists international shares.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists New York market data.

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Livnat: Peled recommendations will spark broadcast revolution

By HELEN KAYE

A third commercial TV channel, direct satellite broadcast services, and the creation of a national authority for electronic communications are among the major recommendations in the Peled Commission Report on restructuring the country's broadcasting system, which was officially released yesterday.

Calling for an "open skies" policy, Communications Minister Limor Livnat said yesterday that if implemented, the planned reforms "constitute a genuine broadcast revolution that will directly influence the quality of life for every Israeli citizen."

Livnat will sum up the Peled Report at Friday's cabinet meeting and urge the government to adopt it in its entirety.

"The broadcast communications revolution is already under way," she said. "Are we going to wait for it to arrive here piecemeal and haphazardly? Or are we going to ensure the orderly transition of our broadcast systems to the new technologies? Nobody would dream of limiting the print media. It should be the same for broadcasting."

The "open skies" policy will allow multiple carriers to offer broadcast services to the public on a competitive basis, subject to new legislation.

Effective and timely regulation of the new technologies would help offset rogue broadcasting such as pornography already allegedly being beamed in via satellite, "although ultimately we cannot, nor do we wish to legislate what people watch," she said.

She also expressed the hope that expanding choice for the consumer would not further degrade the standards of TV/radio fare on offer.

Other major changes include a switchover to digital broadcasting, changes to the existing cable and regional radio frameworks to encourage competition and more choice, and comprehensive broadcasting legislation. There is also a proposal to create a TV channel to broadcast to the Diaspora.

Commission chairman Yossi Peled said that in its eight months of deliberations, committee members spoke with 36 interested parties to get as wide a spectrum of opinion as possible on the scope and/or feasibility of the proposed changes. These included Channel 2, Arutz 7, Army Radio and the Channel 2 franchisees, Keshet, Reshet and Tel-Ad. Peled said that his mandate did



Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Peled Commission chairman Yossi Peled present the commission's report on revamping the country's broadcasting system to a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday. (Gali Hadani)

not include a discussion of the future of public broadcasting, which is being deliberated by the Zuckerman Commission, whose findings have yet to be released.

A Gallup poll conducted last month showed that 78% of those polled were in favor of the proposed

changes, which have been leaked to the press over the last few months. "It will not be easy," Livnat stressed, saying that opposition to the proposed changes was inevitable and legitimate but that eventually the changes would have to come about "for the wider public good."

The first salvos have already been fired. Educational TV head Ahuva Feinmesser said that the Report's proposal to oust the service from Channel 2 has no basis in law and is motivated by purely commercial considerations. Shimon MK Avraham Poraz said the establishment of another com-

mmercial channel would drag down the quality of commercial television because two stations would then be expected to manage on the advertising income that is now supporting Channel 2. The result would be heavy reliance by both stations on cheap imported material.

Commission recommendations

To effect fair and open competition in the broadcasting sector, the Peled Commission recommends:

- A separation of carriers (the broadcasters) and content providers (like the Channel 2 franchisees). The carrier services - via cable, satellites, terrestrial, telephone, etc. - will offer their services with no strings attached.
- Cable and satellite companies will be able to offer pay TV options.
- A new commercial channel with a single corporate license holder would begin operating in 1999, the year the franchises expire on Channel 2. It is also recommended that Channel 2 be a single corporate entity.
- Restructuring regional radio so that the stations can link up to broadcast certain programs or events country-wide.

The establishment of the five dedicated commercial cable channels: Arabic; Russian and Amharic; Jewish heritage; Israeli and eastern music; news.

- To make it work, the commission recommends:
- Comprehensive broadcasting legislation to unite all existing communications laws.
- The creation of an autonomous national authority, something like the US Federal Communications Commission, to deal with planning, licensing, and supervision of all broadcast services.
- A commission for public complaints that would be autonomous and responsible for broadcast and advertising ethics.
- A shift from franchises - which are exclusive - to licenses, which require only that the applicant meet certain criteria.

Fear of foreign workers spreading AIDS

By JUDY SIEGEL

More than 50 foreign workers in the Tel Aviv area have been diagnosed as HIV carriers over the last four years, an Ichilov Hospital doctor disclosed yesterday, at the Knesset State Control Committee's discussion of the State Comptroller Report's section on the Health Ministry's AIDS centers.

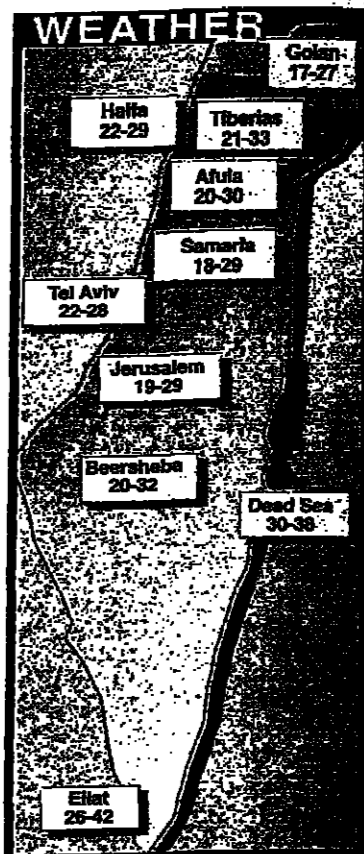
Health Minister Yehoshua Matza warned against allowing a further increase in the number of foreign workers, who are "a source of the spread of AIDS."

He also noted that many of the foreigners, as well as Israelis, are ignorant of facts about AIDS and don't protect themselves against infection.

In the general population, 10 to 15 additional HIV carriers are diagnosed each month, and the total of reported carriers in the country is now 1,564. The estimate of actual carriers is some 2,500.

Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Gabi Barabash said at the meeting that at least some of them can be saved by giving them a "cocktail" of special medications.

However, the Finance Ministry continues to refuse to include the drugs in the basket of health services, so the health funds don't have to supply them to members who are HIV carriers. The cost of including them would be NIS 50 million.



AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Wind	Clouds
Amsterdam	11	17	17	cloudy
Berlin	14	20	17	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	25	17	clear
Caro	23	28	17	clear
Chicago	21	27	17	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	15	21	17	cloudy
Frankfurt	12	18	17	clear
Geneva	12	18	17	clear
Hong Kong	26	31	17	clear
Jakarta	24	29	17	clear
Jerusalem	19	29	17	clear
London	12	18	17	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	21	17	clear
Madrid	16	22	17	clear
Moscow	15	21	17	clear
New York	14	20	17	clear
Paris	14	20	17	clear
Rome	15	21	17	clear
Sydney	18	24	17	clear
Tel Aviv	22	28	17	clear
Toronto	17	23	17	partly cloudy
Vancouver	12	18	17	clear
Zurich	15	21	17	clear

Winning cards
The winning cards in yesterday's Chance draw (176/97) were the seven of spades, nine of hearts, king of diamonds, and eight of clubs. The results of the second draw (177/97) were the seven of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

Paratroopers want some respect

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

TAIBE, South Lebanon - Shmulik, a chunky, cropped-haired paratrooper, just returned from a three-day hunt for Hizbullah guerrillas in south Lebanon, is looking for some respect.

"Whenever you hear about soldiers who don't want to serve in Lebanon it gets plastered all across the press. But when our company takes out two terrorists it ends up as a tiny paragraph on page eight," said Shmulik.

For the troops in Lebanon, the incessant public debate on whether Israel should pull back or stay put is somewhere in the back of their minds; they have more pressing details to worry about. IDF troops, like the paratrooper company manning the position of Taibe about five kilometers west of Kiryat Shmona, are proud of what they are doing, but feel the public doesn't appreciate their sacrifices.

"We aren't sitting ducks. We want more appreciation and don't want to be talked of as the suckers in Lebanon. Somebody has to do it," said Shmulik.

Hizbullah has taken a down-swing lately and has refrained from direct confrontation with the IDF. Preferring to keep their distance, attacks and clashes have given way to mortar and gunfire and upgraded rocket attacks.

Road-side charges, the preferred Hizbullah guerrilla weapon, are still being laid, but recently introduced precautions have suited their effectiveness.

Brig-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia, commander of the IDF division holding the security zone from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the foothills of Marjayoun in the east, said he recognized the impression that Hizbullah was more restrained and credited it to IDF offensive operations.

"There is no new situation in Lebanon," Samia said. "I don't like this term new situation. The battle is daily and if it doesn't happen on the ground then it takes place in the minds on both sides."

Eleven IDF soldiers have been killed so far this year, and by IDF estimates some three times as many Hizbullah fighters have died. For a guerrilla war, the IDF sees this as a victory since the ratio has historically been the other way around elsewhere in the world. Hizbullah has recently changed its local commanders, which may have effected its move toward a more defensive behavior.

The Taibe position in south Lebanon sits atop a field of hand-

cut wheat. On a clear day one can see the sea. It last came under Hizbullah mortar fire two weeks ago.

Today it is bristling with a company of paratroopers from the 101st battalion, some just returning from 60-hour ambushes and other cleaning their weapons and checking their gear before heading out. Taibe protects the western flank of the Galilee Panhandle. Its troops have killed over 11 Hizbullah guerrillas in their sector alone in the past year.

Some paratroopers spoke of parental pressure to opt out of this front-line duty. One soldier named Amit said he had friends whose parents tried to bribe them with promises of motor bikes.

Brigadier Samia said the deployment in south Lebanon under the present circumstances was accepted unanimously among top IDF commanders.

"I trust the decision makers. The IDF position, which I totally agree with, is that the security zone is vital to the defense of the North. I don't think that the [public debate on a withdrawal] is having an effect on the soldiers. It is bothering Israeli society more than here. I hope that we can become united and I promise from here to supply the goods," Samia said.

Soldiers in the company have a lot of respect for their baby-faced commander, 24-year-old Lt. Lior. Some speak of his combat history with awe, and tell how he has numerous kills to his credit.

The soft-spoken Lt. Lior said his company was able to maintain such a high level of motivation because of the unity they have cultivated. He said that some of his soldiers were under tremendous pressure from home to drop out of service on Israel's last active war front. But he also said there have been no desertions from the company in over a year.

"What keeps the unit in their pride," Lt. Lior said. "I also don't think what goes on in the country crosses their minds when they are on the ramparts. They are thinking mainly about how they are going to get their mission done and what they have to do to get through the daily grind. No one is talking ideology here."

"We all here feel that we have to prove something, each one for their own reasons. Some are looking for the bragging glory, for others it's the Zionist ideology that pushes them. Me, I'm from Kiryat Shmona and that says it all," said Eldad. "But even those who live in Ramat Aviv Gimmel are protecting the country because if we aren't here, they [Hizbullah] will come to the fence."

Hebrew U. launches new unit to research industrial health

By JUDY SIEGEL

Work accidents cost the economy NIS 1.6 billion a year, according to Bracha Ben-Zvi, head of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's committee on prevention and research in occupational health.

Speaking at the opening of an academic chair and laboratory for industrial hygiene at the Hebrew University, Ben-Zvi said that three million work days are lost annually due to work accidents.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said that despite the great advances in technology in recent years, protecting the health of people on the job is way behind. He expected that the new Hebrew University facilities would reduce this gap and contribute to occupational health of the population.

Prof. Menahem Luria, head of the university's School for Applied Science, said that most people think high-tech industries are "clean" and therefore not dangerous. But this is a misconception, as some of them deal with very dangerous substances. Workers must be protected and the environment has to be controlled, Luria declared.

The new academic unit is to develop university-level curricula in the field and train manpower for research and work in the field. It will conduct surveys and promote monitoring in the workplaces. Students will work towards a master's degree in environmental sciences with specialization in industrial hygiene.

One of the unique devices in the lab is an infra-red spectrophotometer, which detects fumes from organic compounds in the air. It is the only one of its kind in Israel and will enable experts to conduct research on the dangers of such compounds in the workplace.

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Ukraine to share Jewish material with Israeli researchers

By JUDY SIEGEL

CD-ROMs showing rare items of Judaica from the Ukrainian Jewish community were presented recently to a delegation of the Israel Academy of Sciences by that country's scientific institutes.

These include antique recordings on wax of Jewish folklore segments by the great Yiddish writer Sholom Aleichem. The wax recording technique is the oldest in the world and allowed voices to be preserved from the 19th century.

The Ukraine National Library has a million items connected to Jewish heritage, including Sholom Aleichem's own manuscripts, community registers and segments of cantorial music. Representatives of Israel's National and Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem will be given access to this material

and will include it in its recording project of Jewish folklore around the world. The possibility of joint research and development with the Ukrainians has also been raised.

Prof. Ya'acov Ziv, head of the Israel Academy of Sciences, said books it published will be offered for display at Kiev's national library next year, to mark Israel's 50th anniversary.

Ziv said that during the talks, the establishment of a center for research of Jewish and Ukrainian Jewish heritage was proposed. Such a center would coordinate scientific activity in the field and cooperation with Israeli experts. The publication of Israeli research at Ukrainian research institutes would promote direct ties between scientists in the two countries and ensure the continuation of research into Jewish subjects outside Israel, Ziv concluded.

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